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AND China Overland Trade Report.

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MARRIAGES.

On the 4th May, at the English Episcopal Church, Foochow, by the Venerable Archdeacon Wolfe, assisted by the Rev. W. Banister, and afterwards at the British Consulate, JOHN CHARLES OSWALD, of Foochow, to NINA LOUISA, daughter of the late Rev. A. B. DAY, of Fish-ponds, Bristol.

At Shanghai, on the 20th of May, 1896, at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General by Sir Nicholas J. Hannen, Consul-General, and afterwards at Trinity Cathedral by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., EDITH MAY, daughter of J. A. STEWART, of Shanghai, to WILLIAM HAMFORD, eldest son of the late George CHEETHAM, of Eccles, near Manchester.

At Shanghai, on the 20th of May, at the Imperial German Consulate-General, by Dr. O. Stuebel, Consul-General, and afterwards by Pastor H. Hackmann, Theol. Lic., at the Union Church, CLARA, third daughter of Mr. A. KIRCHNER, Shanghai, to WILHELM SCHRAMMEIER, Phil. Dr., Interpreter to the German Consulate-General, of Shanghai.

DEATH.

At the British Consulate-General, Shanghai, on the 18th instant, MARGARET, the beloved wife of George JAMESON, H.B.M.'s Consul, aged 47 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 24th April arrived, per M. M. steamer *Oceanien*, on the 23rd May (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

We (*Mercury*) hear that the entire bed of the Tientsin-Peking railroad will be ready to receive the rails to be laid in a few months, probably about October.

The King and Queen of Siam left Bangkok on the 9th May on a trip to Java. They arrived at Singapore on the 13th May and were expected to leave for Java on the 22nd.

The recent typhoon passed over Iloilo on the 11th May and did considerable damage, scarcely a house escaping without some marks of the effect of the storm. The notes of the Manila Observatory remark on the extreme slowness with which the storm travelled.

The death is reported of General Kennedy, formerly United States Consul-General at Shanghai.

Frank Walker, the Hongkong Manager of the Vacuum Oil Company, has been charged with embezzling \$2,572.

Pai-tangkao is becoming a large place; it is now to all intents and purposes the port of Tientsin and we hear that steamers are advertised to sail from there. The *Genkai Maru* left Pai-tangkao on the 14th May for Japan and Korea via Chefoo.—*Shanghai Mercury*.

A serious affray took place on the German steamer *Martha* in Hongkong harbour on the 25th May. The cargo coolies turned mutinous and attacked the second mate, whereupon the second engineer came to the mate's rescue and shot two of the coolies with his revolver, inflicting serious wounds.

The new dock of the Mitsui Bishi Company, at Akunoura, is now practically complete, only the entrance and upper end now remaining to be built. The dock, which will take vessels of 4,000 tons and 360 feet in length, was commenced in August last and is to be opened in November.—*Nagasaki Express*.

Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. inform us that a telegram has been received from the Board of Directors of the Indo-China S. N. Co., Limited, stating that it is their intention at the forthcoming general meeting of shareholders to propose a dividend of 8 per cent. on the last year's working of the Company.

A special telegram to the *N. C. Daily News* dated 19th May gives the following particulars of the death of Lieut. Adair.—Lieutenant Henry Adair, commanding H.M.S. *Pigmy*, shot himself yesterday morning at Yokohama. At the inquest held yesterday afternoon a verdict of temporary insanity was returned. He was buried with naval honours at 9 a.m. to-day.

The British steamer *Tennyson*, which was on a voyage to Vladivostok from Hamburg with a cargo consisting principally of coal, put into Manila on the 18th May, fire having broken out in one of her holds. With assistance from the shore the fire was extinguished in a few hours and the vessel was then sent into quarantine for three days, Singapore, her last port of departure, being an infected port.

At its meeting on the 21st May the Hongkong Sanitary Board decided to ask for the opinion of the law officers of the Crown as to whether any legal steps can be taken with a view to obtaining redress for what the Board terms "the apparent misrepresentation made against the Board and its officers" in the letter which Mr. Danby recently addressed to the press with reference to the manner in which the sanitary regulations are enforced.

The Manila Chamber of Commerce has addressed the Madrid Government praying for the removal of the export duty of \$2 per 100 kilogrammes levied on rice. For many years past the Philippines have been an importing country instead of an exporting country as regards rice, but the recent establishment of rice cleaning mills has given an impetus to the cultivation and it is considered that an export trade might grow up if there were no restrictive duties to prevent it.

According to an edict of 17th May, wired to the *Hupao*, Ch'ang Shun, Military Governor of Kirin, has been allowed to resign his post "on account of illness." This is the Governor who sympathised with the Kirin Prefect in his persecution of Dr. Greig for purchasing some land in that city, in consequence of which Mr. Hosie was sent to investigate the matter lately. Apparently the Governor's resignation was caused by the strong pressure put on him by the Tsungli Yamen in the above respect. The acceptance of Ch'ang Shun's resignation by the Emperor is a good sign of more favourable treatment of foreigners in Kirin.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The Customs returns for January-March show that the comparative total collection of dues and duties for the quarter was as under:—

	1896.	1895.
H'k. Tls. H'k. Tls.		
Chinese Treaty Ports	3,737,999	3,700,042
Kowloon and Lappa	229,597	197,052
Lungchow and Mengtze	24,696	31,315

Total

	3,992,292	3,928,409
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It must be remembered, however, that the total in 1895 includes Tamsui and Tainan, from which nothing was received in 1896. Omitting these two ports, the revenue in 1895 at the Chinese Treaty Ports was only Tls. 3,516,468, so that there is really a gain this year of over Tls. 220,000.

The *Hyogo News* says:—Some papers persist that Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co. are behind the Great Eastern Steamship Company. And they assert that Mr. Mitchell's present visit home by way of India has a direct bearing upon the business in view by that association of capitalists. Before starting for England to order the new ships for the Oriental Steamship Company, Mr. Asano desires to see the agreement of the two concerns formulated. If that is done the Portland service will be run in connection with the Oregon Railway, and Messrs. Samuel Samuel and Co. will transfer their existing rights in that connection. Representatives of the two Japanese Companies met on Saturday to discuss a proposition from the firm named. A yearly rental is demanded of 500,000 yen for the next decade, and in return Messrs. Samuel Samuel guarantee an income of not less than five million yen. That at least is the proposal as we understand it from our Japanese exchanges.

The report of the Jelebu Mining and Trading Co., Limited, states that the output for the half year ended 13th February, 1896, is 3,929 piculs ore against 3,404 piculs for the previous half year, and against 4,047 piculs ore and 176 piculs tin for the corresponding or last half of 1894. Outstanding advances (after writing off \$11,620 as bad and doubtful) amounted to \$10,935. After paying all charges, writing off the cost of prospecting, and making an allowance of \$2,085 for depreciation of houses, plant, furniture, &c., there remains at the credit of profit and loss account a balance of \$1,492.42, from which the directors propose taking \$938 to be placed to reserve fund, bringing that fund up to \$10,000, and carrying forward the sum of \$554.42 to new account. The cost of the development of the Maliwun concession during the half year, amounting to about \$27,000, is carried forward as an asset, totalling now \$65,190 expended so far on that property.

MR. DANBY AND THE SANITARY BOARD.

The Sanitary Board, in passing a resolution asking to be furnished with the opinion of the legal advisers of the Crown as to whether any legal steps can be taken with a view to obtaining redress for the apparent misrepresentation made against the Board and its officers in Mr. DANBY's letter, has made itself supremely ridiculous, and it will no doubt be so advised by the Acting Attorney-General. Mr. DANBY in his letter addressed to the press indulged in some general criticism of the manner in which the sanitary regulations are enforced, suggested that corruption is at work in the subordinate branches of the service, and made definite charges against a particular officer that his duties were not carried out impartially. The officer referred to is entitled to an opportunity of clearing himself, and it may be considered an action at law would afford him the means of doing so, but that the Board should want to go to law as a body is quite Gilbertian in its absurdity. Members of public bodies must not be too thin-skinned to stand public criticism; and if the members of the Sanitary Board are so hypersensitive that they want to raise a libel action on everything that is said in their disfavour it would be better that they should resign. As to the officer against whom specific charges are made, the fairest course to him would be to adopt the sensible plan suggested by Mr. EDE, the only unofficial member of the Board, and hold a formal investigation by the Board; if the charges were not sustained the accused would be cleared of all imputation on his character, or, on the other hand, if the finding should be against him the Board could then proceed to take such action as the circumstances might call for. It does not seem a case in which the authorities should instigate litigation on the part of the officer, as that would involve needless expense and lead to results that would in any case be less satisfactory than those of a departmental inquiry. The Government could not provide the officer with the necessary funds for litigation, and to ask him to provide them himself would be rather hard upon him when the question in dispute can be readily settled without any expense at all.

Leaving aside the case as affecting P.C. 103, which it would be improper to discuss while it is *sub judice*, it seems to us that on the general question the reply of the Sanitary Board to Mr. DANBY, is far from complete. Mr. DANBY, in support of his charge that sometimes partiality is shown, mentions the removal of cocklofts which he alleges were legal, while others which he alleges are illegal have been allowed to remain: also the removal of a sunshade while another sunshade in the immediate neighbourhood was undisturbed. It is not stated, nor remotely suggested, that the alleged partiality is shown with the knowledge or sanction of the Board or of its superior officers, but that it is shown by the subordinate officers in actual charge of the operations. Now the subordinate officers are entitled to set as high a value on their characters as the superior officers set on theirs, and in weighing any charges brought against them the public generally we think will be inclined to accept the word of one European against that of a good many Chinamen. Nevertheless, there is an impression abroad that, as the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police says in his minute he fears, "there must be grounds for some of these complaints and an effort

"should be made to induce persons to come forward to give evidence." Mr. DANBY has come forward and has thereby rendered a public service, for which he deserves public thanks. In most cases of allegations of misconduct there is more or less conflict of evidence, and in the present case it may be shown that Mr. DANBY's observation has on some points been defective, but the important question is whether he is right in the substance of his complaints.

Mr. McCALLUM, the Sanitary Superintendent, went with Mr. DANBY to look at the premises in connection with which the question of cocklofts arises, and at first he appeared to be of opinion that Mr. DANBY was correct in his allegations, but on his return to his office he looked up the notifications and subsequently sent a copy to Mr. DANBY "underlining in red the part which showed that the cocklofts which he considered were illegal were perfectly legal and it would have been an illegal act to have removed them." This was before Mr. DANBY published his letter, and it must therefore be presumed that he was unconvinced by Mr. McCALLUM's communication; otherwise he would have been guilty of misstatement when he published his letter. Possibly the question may resolve itself into one of strict measurement in feet and inches of the height of the cocklofts. In any case it is easy to understand that the Chinese who had their own cocklofts removed should draw unfavourable inferences when they saw other cocklofts allowed to remain which even the Sanitary Superintendent at first thought were illegal. Mr. McCALLUM subsequently explained to these people the law on the subject and he says "they seemed to clearly comprehend the position." That is satisfactory; but it was clearly a case in which explanation was called for. But in connection with Mr. McCALLUM's statement in his minute that it would have been an illegal act to have removed the cocklofts that were allowed to remain must be read the admission made by the Sanitary Board in their letter to the Colonial Secretary that "whether the special provisions of the Ordinances regarding certain structures are complied with or not, if their removal is necessary for the thorough cleansing and disinfection of the premises they are removed." This leaves much to the discretion of those who have to carry out the cleansing operations and seems to leave an open door for squeezing if the officers are disposed to avail themselves of it.

We come now to the question of sunshades. Mr. DANBY in his letter states that he saw "a gang of coolies destroying a good sunshade covered with zinc and boards. . . . No one could say it was injurious to health. . . . The sunshade at No. 55 (next door but one) was intact and not touched in any way." The explanation given of this by the Sanitary Board in the letter to the Colonial Secretary is that "the former was in a very dirty and rotten condition and was removed as a nuisance; the latter is in fairly good condition and has been recently painted." Here we have a direct conflict of evidence; a sunshade which Mr. DANBY describes as a good one is described by the Sanitary Board as dirty and rotten. A sunshade necessarily begins to wear a begrimed appearance very soon after painting, but even if in addition to that it was beginning to show signs of age, we fail to see how it could constitute a nuisance (assuming it did not constitute a nuisance when new) unless on account of its appearance or that it was dangerous to passers by in consequence of its liability to

fall. Neither of those considerations comes within the domain of the Sanitary Board, which has to deal only with questions affecting public health. It would seem therefore that on this point Mr. DANBY's case is completely established on the Board's own showing and that of two sunshades which ought to have been treated alike one was removed and the other allowed to remain.

Another point urged by Mr. DANBY is that the occupants of houses are not allowed sufficient time to remove their goods when the houses are to be cleared, and that goods are unnecessarily damaged for want of due care. It is impossible in carrying out compulsory cleansing operations to avoid altogether the infliction of hardship, and much depends upon the tact and discretion of the officers concerned. While quite willing to give the officers credit for a desire to inflict as little hardship as possible we are inclined to think that drawing public attention to the complaints of the Chinese as to the destruction of their merchandise and household goods is calculated to have a wholesome effect as tending to prevent the growth of any feeling of indifference on the part of the officers to the interests of the people with whose houses they have to deal.

The Sanitary Board seeks to convict Mr. DANBY of an inconsistency because in his letter to the press he says his reason for writing "is that the regulations are not carried out without fear or favour," while in a subsequent letter to the President he states that his "main object was to suggest that the goods and merchandise of these Chinese merchants and shopkeepers should be handled with a little more care and also some reasonable time should be given to remove their own goods themselves should they wish to do so." Whether the word "main" has been italicised by the Board or was underlined by Mr. DANBY himself we do not know, but taking the two phrases as they stand we fail to see any inconsistency between them. Mr. DANBY had apparently in view both the objects mentioned and, although precision of thought and language is desirable, it does not seem very singular that at one moment he may have thought the first of these objects the more important and at another moment the second. In the discussion of an important public question quibbles raised on a point of that kind are to be deprecated.

THE PLAGUE AND THE HEALTH OF CANTON.

All fear of any extensive epidemic of plague in the colony this year may now, we think, be confidently dismissed, though doubtless sporadic cases will continue to occur for some time to come. It will be remembered that at this time in the year 1894 the number of deaths from the disease was increasing daily, whereas this year the rate continues about stationary, and, moreover, the disease is reported to be abating considerably at Canton, which is the most encouraging feature, for in this colony the disease seems to ebb and flow in sympathy with its prevalence in Canton. In the letter which the Sanitary Board at its meeting on Thursday decided to address to the Colonial Secretary with reference to the manner in which the sanitary regulations have been enforced, the Board, after remarking that the efforts of its officials during the last few months, owing to the unfortunate reappearance of the bubonic plague, have been mainly directed against the state of filth that was found to exist in many houses in the city and the obstructions of windows and venti-

lating openings, says:—"The Board were convinced that the prompt adoption and prosecution of measures to remedy this state of affairs were the only practical means of arresting the progress of the disease, and the material reduction in the number of cases recently occurring in the city certainly tends to strengthen such conviction." Now, while no one can call in question the desirability of the cleansing operations that have been undertaken in this colony, the evidence does not seem to warrant the conviction that those operations should be credited with the abatement of the disease. The precautions taken at Canton have been of the most superficial character, being confined simply to keeping the streets a little more free from garbage than usual, yet we find the disease abating there as well as in this colony and at a time when in 1894 it was rapidly increasing. This suggests the inquiry whether climatic causes may not have had more to do with the abatement of the disease, in this colony as well as in Canton, than the cleansing operations, or whether the disease itself may not have lost its virulence to some extent.

We are inclined also to doubt whether the disease has been so bad at Canton this year as has been represented. It was on the 18th May that the Acting Consul reported that the disease had "abated very considerably during the past week." In his previous letter dated the 12th May Mr. FRASER reported that there was no abatement, that he had had the coffins leaving the North Gate counted, and that the average number per diem was 80, which, allowing for the other gates, the suburbs, and Honam, probably represented a total mortality of at least 240 per diem in a population of a million and a half. Upon this the Health Officer made the following minute:—"This represents a death rate of 55.7 per 1,000 per annum, and indicates the prevalence of some fatal epidemic, presumably plague, from which deaths at the rate of about 800 per week at least are occurring in addition to the ordinary death rate." The value of Dr. CLARK's remarks rests upon his knowledge of the ordinary death rate of Canton, which we have always understood to be an unknown quantity; if Dr. CLARK is in a position to state with any precision what the ordinary death rate really is the information would be welcomed by all who take an interest in health statistics. Apparently he takes it at a fraction over 29 per thousand, which appears much below what probability would suggest. According to a table given in Whittaker's Almanack, compiled from the returns issued by the Registrar-General, the death rate at Calcutta for the year ending 29th September, 1895, was 38.8, at Bombay 30.8, and at Madras 38.4. In these cities sanitation has made considerable progress and western medical science is more extensively availed of than in Canton, from which the inference may be drawn that their death rates would be considerably below that of Canton, where sanitation is practically absent and where the deaths from preventible causes, owing to the absence of qualified medical attention, must be very large. The death rate in Hongkong is between 22 and 23 per thousand, and having regard to the character of the population, in which there is such a large preponderance of adult males, one would expect to find a much larger difference between the death rate of Hongkong and Canton, where the proportion of women and children to the total population is normal, than six per thousand. If Dr. CLARK's

estimate be anywhere near the mark, then Canton when free of the plague must be a much more healthy city than is generally supposed, almost as healthy, in fact, as Liverpool or Dublin, in both of which towns the death rate is over 28 per thousand. If, on the other hand, he has under-estimated the normal death rate he must have over-estimated the number of deaths due to plague.

THE GAP ROCK LIGHT DUES.

At the recent meeting of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce it was stated that the Committee had not lost sight of the question of the additional dues imposed on shipping to pay for the construction of the Gap Rock lighthouse. How important it is that this subject should not be allowed to rest, now that the amount collected is more than sufficient to cover the cost of the light, may be inferred from some remarks made by a Shanghai contemporary. The *Mercury* devotes a leading article to the proceedings of the Chamber at its annual meeting. After some remarks on the importance of treating political or commercial questions with a due sense of responsibility, the writer goes on to say:—"This sense of responsibility, it is needless to say, is not always the predominant motive in these periodical gatherings, and there is more frequently an utter want of the feeling of proportion, so that trivial and petty details are often put forward with a gravity that seriously detracts from the value of the individual Chambers' recommendations on more important issues. In this respect the Chamber at Hongkong was this year more happy than usual and touched upon topics of local and general commerce with a juster sense of perspective. Perhaps the one point on which the Chamber was merely petulant was on the light dues. The Colony is already, the Chamber tells us, heavily taxed, indications are that it may be sought to tax it more; the Chamber anxiously desired that the approaches to the harbour, one of the largest shipping centres in the world, should be lighted; lighting and upkeep cost money, and yet the Chamber objected to the vessels that made use of the lights paying for them." If this is the way in which the question of the light dues is treated by an intelligent journal which presumably has the interests of trade at heart, what may be expected from a Government pressed for funds in consequence of the costliness of its administration? There was no petulance in the way in which the question was treated at the meeting, and the statement in the last sentence of the passage quoted, namely, that the Chamber objected to the vessels that made use of the lights paying for them, is directly contrary to fact. The mistake into which our contemporary has fallen is inexcusable, inasmuch as it was clearly stated by the Chairman of the meeting that the dues were first levied to pay for the construction and lighting of Gap Rock lighthouse and a pledge was given by the then Governor that they should cease when the object for which they were imposed had been attained. That object has been attained and what is now asked for is the fulfilment of a contract entered into by intelligent men representing on the one side the Government and on the other the commercial interests of the port. The cost of the Gap Rock lighthouse has been more than covered by the dues collected and the other lights have been paid for several times over. The cost of upkeep is a small matter and might very well be

borne by the general revenue, but that is not at present suggested, all that is asked for being the removal of the special dues levied to cover the cost of constructing the Gap Rock light; the original dues of one cent per ton would remain and would still yield a handsome revenue to the Government after paying for the upkeep of all the lights. If the colony had possessed a Harbour Conservancy Board the cost of constructing the lighthouses might have been treated as a loan from the Government to the Board, in the same way that Governments make advances to municipalities for specific purposes, and on the loan being repaid the transaction would have been closed. But according to our Northern contemporary, simply because we do not happen to possess any representative body with a legal status to take charge of the lighting of the port and the light dues, and the matter has to be left to the honesty of the Government, therefore the Government is justified in continuing to exact payments on account of what was a loan in all but name long after the loan has been repaid.

THE GOVERNOR OF THE STRAITS AND THE SINGAPORE MUNICIPALITY.

Municipal questions are to the front at Singapore as well as at Hongkong, as will be seen by the letter addressed by the Straits Settlements Association to the Governor; Sir CHARLES MITCHELL. Singapore possesses a municipality, an institution which apparently works well, but of late the Government has evinced a meddlesome disposition towards it and, amongst other things, has interfered to prevent the payment of what the municipality considered reasonable salaries to municipal servants. The local branch of the Straits Settlements Association therefore appeals directly to the Governor to divest himself of his powers of interference. What Sir CHARLES MITCHELL will say to the request remains to be seen, but the *Straits Times* opines that His Excellency will not grant it. Our contemporary impugns the authority of the Committee to speak for the Association and goes on to say:—"There is not in Singapore any widespread interest in municipal affairs. So far as the Straits Association implies that there is such an interest, the Association obscures the truth. The general public does not care twopence about such matters." Notwithstanding our contemporary's local knowledge we venture to think he is mistaken in his estimate of the feelings of the Singapore community, for we cannot conceive of any body of intelligent Englishmen being indifferent to the character of the administration under which they live. When they have no power to carry their ideas into effect people may not give close attention to questions of detail, but that is not because they do not care twopence about such matters, but because of the uselessness of troubling themselves about things they cannot help. If there really be the indifference alleged by the *Straits Times* it is a very unhealthy sign and in the interests of good government and the general prosperity every effort ought to be made to remove it and to stimulate a healthy interest in public questions. But it does not really appear that much stimulus is necessary, for our contemporary admits that "the more rational, the more moderate, public opinion," though not against the Government, is, unhappily, setting against the present Governor. It should follow from

this, though our contemporary does not seem to see it, that the public really does take some interest in municipal questions, sufficient at least to make it resent the Governor's ill-advised interference. "The recent friction between the Governor and the Municipality," our contemporary goes on to say, "did not necessarily arise from the powers against which the Straits Association Committee are protesting. The friction has been created because Sir CHARLES MITCHELL has used indiscreetly powers that were intended to be used with discretion." To that the natural answer is, remove such powers, so that an indiscreet Governor may not have the opportunity of abusing them. The *Straits Times* finds another answer, namely, that "the average probability of having an indiscreet Governor is not greater than the average probability of having an inefficient Municipal Board. You must balance the one against the other." We hope our contemporary will derive some amusement from the occupation of balancing. It will be noted, however, that as regards the more important of the powers now exercised by the Governor with regard to the Municipality, the Straits Settlements Association does not ask for their total abrogation, but only that they should be exercised through the Legislative Council instead of by the Governor individually.

FAMINE RELIEF FOR KWANGSI.

The appeal made by Mr. JOHN ANDREW, in his letter published in another column, on behalf of the famine stricken people of Kwangsi, ought to meet with a ready response. There can, unfortunately, be no doubt about the extremely aggravated nature of the distress prevailing, which is even greater in South-western China than in the adjoining French protectorate of Tonkin. In the latter country the French Government is doing all it can to mitigate the consequences of the failure of the crops; public subscriptions have been opened, duties have been remitted, and, perhaps most important of all, communications are easy over a great part of the country, so that the districts where the distress is greatest can be readily reached. Kwangsi is further removed from the reach of assistance, and when famine takes place in any part of China there is always a lamentable lack of intelligence in dealing with the emergency. The most efficient relief work is generally done by missionaries; but in Kwangsi the missionary body is rather sparsely represented, and assistance from that source will consequently be limited. Mr. ANDREW is shortly leaving for the province on another of his mercantile ventures, and he offers to carry any relief that may be sent from Hongkong. He suggests that this should take the form of ship biscuits, as these are more convenient for conveyance. The idea strikes us as an excellent one, for the nourishment contained in say a hundredweight of biscuits must be many times greater than that contained in an equivalent weight of rice; and, moreover, the food is ready cooked, so that when it is placed in the hands of the starving people there will be no difficulty about fuel. When Mr. ANDREW was at Wuchow three months ago distress was beginning to make itself felt and in the time that has since elapsed it has become greatly intensified, so much so that, according to Mr. ANDREW's information, the people have been driven to cannibalism and are now eating their children.

SUPREME COURT.

20th May.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

TSUNG YUEN SHI v. THE HONGKONG FIRE
INSURANCE COMPANY.

The hearing in this case was resumed. The plaintiff claimed \$417.50 from the defendants as loss sustained by fire at 309, Queen's Road Central, on the 26th February, she having effected a policy of insurance with the defendants. Mr. Reece appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. Hastings (of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office) for the defence.

Witnesses for the defence were called and the evidence concluded.

Mr. Hastings, in addressing his Lordship, said that owing to the evidence of two independent witnesses given at the fire inquiry held before the Magistrate that there was no furniture on the premises at the time of the fire, and looking to the number of cases of arson and fraud consequent thereon prevailing in the colony, his clients considered it to be their duty to themselves and to the public to fight the case in order that the fullest inquiry might be held into the circumstances attending it. Certain facts were admitted. It was admitted that a man died from plague in the house on the 23rd February and that the plaintiff removed to her present address on the same day. It was highly probable that she knew of the stringent measures adopted by those responsible for the public health of the colony, and that possibly sufficient care was not taken in all cases to safeguard the property in the houses from damage or theft. We had heard of goods being roughly treated and thrown over the verandahs, and in any case put out into the middle of the street exposed to the weather and exposed to theft by passers-by. The plaintiff admitted she had heard of such things happening, and counsel suggested there was a strong probability that, knowing of these things, she would take steps to guard her furniture and clothing from such danger and loss. She said she went out of the house without a change of clothing and that, although she knew of the measures taken by the officials in a case of plague, she did not think it worth while to remove a single bit of the furniture or clothing from the house and put it in a place of safety. She said she did not move the things because they were insured, but she did not know whether a policy of insurance covered damage such as counsel suggested. He submitted that the evidence for the plaintiff was very contradictory and entirely irreconcilable with the evidence for the defence. The witnesses for the defence were independent and no motive could be suggested for their giving false evidence. They had stated that on the 25th February, the day before the fire, the only furniture on the verandah was a rattan chair, and the room, as far as the witnesses could see, was empty. Against this there was the statement by the plaintiff that both the verandah and the room were full of furniture. The police evidence for the defence showed that the fire occurred on the plaintiff's verandah and the fact that the doors were locked created grave suspicions. His Lordship had to choose between the value of the evidence given on each side and say which he believed.

Mr. Reece submitted that the question was whether there had been fraud or not and the onus of proof lay on the defendants.

His Lordship, in giving judgment, said he agreed with the statement of the law as laid down by Mr. Hastings and he regretted that he had not the assistance of a jury in the case, as the question was one of fact and the evidence was extremely contradictory. He then reviewed the evidence and said he accepted the statement of Acting Sergeant Williamson as the most valuable evidence in the case. The fact that the fire occurred on the verandah and that the doors were locked threw great doubt on the evidence for the plaintiff, and on the balance of the evidence he had come to the

conclusion that the plaintiff had not made out her case that the property was on the premises at the time of the fire. He therefore gave judgment for the defendants with costs.

21st May.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR DR. CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE INCENDIARY FIRE AT PRAYA WEST.

Tsang Tse Chap and Lau Wai Chin were indicted on two counts charging them with setting fire to premises at No. 48, Praya West, and with doing the same with intention to defraud.

Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General) and Mr. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. A. B. Johnson, Crown Solicitor), were for the prosecution, and Mr. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Hastings) defended the prisoners. Mr. H. L. Dennys watched the case on behalf of the Insurance Companies interested.

Considerable time was occupied in swearing the jury owing to the objections raised by Mr. Robinson to several gentlemen who had been summoned to serve. He objected to Mr. W. R. Loxley on the ground that he was the agent for an Insurance Company.

Mr. Pollock—I don't think you have shown sufficient reason why he should not serve.

His Lordship—Of course the depositions do go to show that an attempt has been made to defraud an Insurance Company, so that perhaps if Mr. Loxley is an agent it might be better for him to stand aside—if he thinks that he cannot fairly try the case.

In answer to his Lordship Mr. Loxley said he was an agent for a Fire Insurance Company, and his Lordship thought he had therefore better stand aside.

Mr. Robinson—I have to make a similar objection with regard to Mr. C. S. Sharp, who, I believe, is an agent for an Insurance Company.

His Lordship—Why did you not mention these matters before?

Mr. Sharp was asked by his Lordship if he was an insurance agent and he replied in the affirmative.

His Lordship—As this case involves the charge that an attempt has been made to defraud a Fire Insurance Company I think that no agent connected with a Company should go on the jury.

Mr. Orange was then about to be sworn when Mr. Pollock asked if he could object to him on the ground that his partner, Mr. Leigh, was going to be called as a witness for the prosecution.

His Lordship—I don't think that will make any difference.

Mr. Playfair, who was already sworn, now explained to the Court that he was a local director of an Insurance Company and asked if that was an objection to his serving on the jury.

His Lordship—Do you feel that you cannot fairly try the case?

Mr. Playfair—No, your Lordship; I only mentioned the matter as the question of Insurance agents had been raised.

His Lordship—I think you can stop on.

The jury was composed of the following:—William S. Bamsey, Marcus David Ezekiel, James Orange, Wei Yuk, G. W. F. Playfair, B. Layton, D. Haskell.

The Acting Attorney-General, in opening the case for the Crown, said the prisoners were charged on two counts, the first that on the 22nd April they set fire to premises at 48, Praya West, a man called Im Wa being inside at the time; and the second, that they set fire to the same house with intent to defraud. Counsel then proceeded to describe the position of the premises and the locality and extent of the fire as given in the evidence at the Police Court and said it appeared from this evidence that there had been a deliberate and carefully laid out scheme to set fire to the premises. The plea was put forward by the prisoners at the Police Court that the premises were set fire to by somebody who had a grudge against the firm, and he believed it would be suggested on behalf of the prisoners that the fire was accidental, and that the suggestion was that a rat pulled the wick out of a kerosine lamp and set fire to the place.

But if the jury believed the evidence of the police he did not think they would arrive at that conclusion as it would be proved that there were three separate fires on the ground floor. He then referred to the insurance of the premises and said at the date of the fire there were two policies outstanding in two different companies. One was taken out in the Northern Insurance Company, for which Messrs. Bradley & Co. were agents, on the 11th May, 1894, for the sum of \$2,500—\$2,000 on the goods and \$500 on the furniture and fittings. That policy was renewed on the 11th May, 1895, and therefore expired on 11th May, 1896, some three weeks after the day of the fire. The second policy was taken out in the Magdeburg Fire Insurance Company, for which Messrs. Sander & Co. were agents, on the 25th March this year (about a month before the fire) for the sum of \$3,500—\$2,000 on the goods, \$500 on the furniture and fittings, and \$1,000 on clothing. In conclusion he submitted that the premises were deliberately and intentionally set fire to and with the connivance of the people inside the house at the time.

Witnesses were then called and examined by Mr. Francis.

Yim Wa, a rice pounder, who was asleep on the ground floor on the night of the fire, repeated his evidence as given at the Police Court.

Mr. Prosser put in plans of the premises, which he described in detail.

The Court then adjourned.

22nd May.

THE CHARGES OF ARSON.

The trial was resumed of Tsung Tse Chap and Lau Wai Chin, masters of 41, Praya West, who are charged with wilfully setting fire to their premises on the night of the 22nd April.

Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General) and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., appeared to prosecute, being instructed by Mr. A. B. Johnson (Crown Solicitor). Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. J. Hastings) defended the prisoners, and Mr. H. L. Dennys was present to watch the proceedings on behalf of the Insurance Companies interested.

Additional evidence was given for the prosecution and P. S. Macaulay spoke to being the first fireman on the scene. He described the whereabouts of the outbreak and said that soon after his arrival he saw a tin containing kerosine fall from the top floor.

Inspector Witchell spoke to examining the premises after the fire and finding tins containing kerosine and pea-nut oil on the floors, while firewood and joss paper, bedding, and other articles had been saturated with kerosine.

One of the pots of pea-nut oil was produced in Court and on the lid being removed a most disgusting odour was wafted all over the Court and everyone applied their handkerchiefs to their noses. The lid was replaced as soon as possible, but it was some minutes before the traces of the abominable stench were entirely removed by the swinging punkahs.

The hearing was continued on the 23rd and was then adjourned until to-day (27th).

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on the 21st May. Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided, and there were also present—Dr. Atkinson (Acting Colonial Surgeon), Mr. H. B. Lethbridge (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

PLAGUE AT CANTON.

The Colonial Secretary forwarded the following letters from H.B.M. Consul at Canton concerning the prevalence of bubonic plague.

H.B.M. Consulate,
Canton, 12th May, 1896.

Sir,—Referring to previous reports, I have the honour to inform you that there is no abatement of bubonic plague in the city of Canton and its suburbs. During the five days, 7th to 11th May, I had the coffins leaving the north gates counted. The average number was

80, which, allowing for the other gates, the suburbs, and Honam, probably represents a total mortality of at least 240 per diem in a population of a million and a half. The city magistrates have issued another joint proclamation enjoining the cleaning of the streets.—I have, etc.,

E. H. FRASER, Acting Consul.
The Colonial Secretary, Hongkong.

The following minutes were attached:—

The Health Officer—This represents a death rate of 55.7 per 1,000 per annum, and indicates the extensive prevalence of some fatal epidemic, presumably plague, from which deaths at the rate of about 300 per week at least are occurring, in addition to the ordinary death rate.

The President—Is anything going to be done as to restriction of traffic as recommended by the Board months ago?

H.B.M. Consulate,
Canton, 18th May, 1896.

Sir,—Referring to previous reports, I have the honour to inform you that the bubonic plague has abated very considerably during the past week in Canton and its suburbs, very few cases being brought to the Chinese Free Hospital. Steps are being taken to keep the streets free of filth and rubbish, and a free dispensary has been opened by the Board of Reorganisation in the southern suburb. The plague is, however, reported to be raging in Sainam near Samshui, on the West River.—I have, &c.,

E. H. FRASER,
Acting Consul.

The Colonial Secretary, Hongkong.
THE ALLEGED CORRUPT ADMINISTRATION OF
SANITARY REGULATIONS.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
15th May, 1896.

Sir,—I am directed to forward for the information of the Sanitary Board the enclosed letter addressed to the *China Mail* by Mr. W. Danby on the subject of the cleansing of the city, and to state that His Excellency the Governor desires that a strict enquiry may be made at once into the alleged irregularities and the result of the investigation reported for his information.—I have, &c.,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. Ede—I have made a comment in the margin of the draft letter re two paragraphs. The first leaves an incorrect impression as it is now worded and the last paragraph I would omit because I think Mr. Danby was actuated by a desire to get matters set right which he thought were going wrong. I see no mention in this about the ceiling we saw in Bonham Strand which had been removed and about which the man complained. It had evidently been a large piece of ceiling and at a considerable height from the floor, judging from the holes in the walls where the joints had rested. Mr. MacCallum said he would see about it. I do not consider the investigation in this case complete. Surely there must have been witnesses to these operations complained of who could have been called. Mr. Danby distinctly says in his letter to the Press that he saw all kinds of perishable and valuable goods being treated in a rough manner and dirty water from washing verandahs allowed to run into cargo and stock-in-trade. This is evidence which is good until it is rebutted by better. As regards the statement of the complainant denied by P. C. 103, I am inclined to believe the complainant, because as a rule Chinese are very unwilling to make specific complaints against specific individuals for fear of after trouble. I look upon the complaint of ill usage as the principal point in Mr. Danby's letter to the Press. The legality or illegality of cocklofts can generally be decided by direct inquiry, but there have been a good many complaints lately of rough treatment, one way and another, and to my mind the results of the inquiries made have not been satisfactory. I may mention that complaints of this nature have several times reached us from different independent quarters and I can hardly think they are all untrue.

The Acting Colonial Surgeon—There are two definite charges by Mr. Danby, one that the stock-in-trade was damaged by dirty water from the verandahs, the other that he received abuse from this P. C. 103. As far as I can see neither of them has been answered.

The Acting Captain Superintendent of Police—It is much to be regretted that persons are so fearful about giving evidence which would materially assist the Board to get at the real truth. I should like to see the case more thoroughly sifted, but if evidence is not forthcoming I cannot suggest any alteration in the President's proposed reply. I fear there

must be grounds for some of these complaints and I submit that an effort should be made to induce persons to come forward and give evidence. As far as P. C. 103 is concerned I can state that he came before me immediately after Mr. Danby's letter appeared in the papers and stated that he could satisfactorily answer all the charges alleged against him. I informed him that the case would be dealt with by the Sanitary Board. The constable has a clean defaulters sheet and bears a good character.

The President—When persons allege that certain facts have come within their personal knowledge one expects to find that their statements concerning them are something more than mere hearsay and in view of the inquiries made I consider the charges made against certain of the Board's officers are most unjustifiable and contemptible.

The Secretary—With reference to Mr. Wm. Danby's letter in the English daily papers of the Colony, I think it desirable to lay before you the facts, in so far as the remarks therein refer to me personally. On Saturday afternoon Mr. Ede called at the office and said that Mr. Danby had made certain definite statements to him, declaring that in a narrow street which he called "Egg Lane," but which is really Wing Sing Street. We went into four shops, in the back part of which there were cocklofts about seven feet above the ground floor. Bearing in mind that certain cocklofts had to have a clear space of nine feet below and eight feet above, I remarked that the cocklofts we had just looked at appeared to be illegal, but that before making any definite statement I would refer to the Notifications dealing with the subject of granting permission for the continuance of cocklofts. This I invariably do when a question about cocklofts occurs, because the Notifications are not easily retained correctly in one's memory. Mr. Danby then went to No. 90, Bonham Strand, and showed us that cocklofts standing over eight feet from the floor had been removed. We passed from No. 90 into No. 88, and there also cocklofts standing over eight feet from the floor had been removed. When leaving these two premises we were asked to enter a shop, where the owner pointed out a place where some shelving had been removed, the reason for which removal he did not understand. On my return to the office I looked at the Notifications Nos. 373 and 407, and at once saw how matters stood, but to clinch the matter I sent for the Inspector of the District and questioned him as to how he read the Notifications and the construction he put upon them. This he did at once and without the slightest hesitation, showing to me that he was perfectly conversant with this part of his duties. I took him with me and revisited the premises which Mr. Danby had shown to Mr. Ede and myself the previous afternoon. Whilst making this second visit I told the tenant of No. 90, Bonham Strand to call at my office and I would explain to him the reasons for the action taken, and which he so glibly professed not to understand. On Monday morning I sent to Mr. Danby a copy of Notification No. 373 of 1895, underlining in red the part which showed that the cocklofts which he considered were illegal were perfectly legal, and it would have been an illegal act to have removed them. Mr. Danby has either failed to grasp the meaning of the Notification or he is guilty of a gross misrepresentation of the few remarks I made to him on the subject with which the Notification deals. I also sent a copy of the Notification to Mr. Ede, with a note explaining that the cocklofts in Wing Sing Street were in accordance with the law. The tenant of No. 90, Bonham Strand called to see me on Monday, together with six or seven others. I carefully explained to them the reason why their cocklofts had been removed, viz., that they had a combination of cubicles and cocklofts, and that the cocklofts had not the space below them which the law demands. They seemed to clearly comprehend the position. Some of them said they wished to re-erect their cocklofts, and they were told there was no reason why they should not receive permission to do so in accordance with the law if they applied for such permission. One of the men talked very volubly about the damage to his goods, which he estimated at \$1,000. I told him he had better specify the actual damage done and apply for compensation, but that \$1,000 was a considerable sum of money and he would have to show clearly and distinctly how he arrived at that round figure. He somewhat impudently replied that he would make a claim, but that if the Board would not accept his claim in full he would put the matter in the hands of his solicitor. I at once told him that if these were his views he had better go to his solicitor at once and let the point be determined in a court of law and that I neither could nor would listen to such statements from him. It is perfectly true that on several occasions when Chinese have come to this office expressing a desire to cleanse their own premises that I have told them that was just

what we wished them to do and subsequently to keep them clean. I have on such occasions given these people a memo. addressed to the cleansing gang telling them that Mr. — had given notice of his intention to cleanse his premises and that there was therefore no need to cleanse them for him for a few days, but if he failed to do the work that he must just be treated in the same way as the others. The occupier of Nos 91 and 103, Bonham Strand got such a paper from me and brought it back next day saying the constable in charge of the cleansing gang had read it and pitched it on the floor. The man was to me evidently actuated by malice and I quietly told him I would inquire into the matter. I subsequently saw P.C. 103 and he denied having pitched the memo. on the floor, but as the man would not take it from him he put it on his desk. Of course this is a case of an apparently respectable Chinese trader's word against a European constable's word, and consequently it is somewhat difficult to arrive at a sound conclusion. However, in view of the manner of the two men, when discussing the subject with me, I am convinced the truth lies with the constable.

The following letters were also amongst the papers:—

Public Works Department,
15th May, 1896.

Sir,—In view of the letter concerning the removal of cocklofts appearing above your signature in this morning's issue of the *Daily Press*, I have the honour to request your consent to the publication of the information (omitting names) you furnished me with on Monday last. The complaints were immediately investigated and doubtless the results will be of public interest.—I have the honour, &c.,

FRANCIS C. COOPER,
Director of Public Works.

W. Danby, Esq., C.E.

Hongkong.

16th May, 1896.

Dear Sir,—In reply to yours of yesterday, unless it is absolutely necessary, I would much prefer you did not publish the individual cases I mentioned to you on Monday last. My clients (as is often the case with Chinese) do not wish it. The information was given you confidentially for what it was worth, as I told you at the time, with a view to your having it verified or otherwise, which you could do in your position much better than any private individual. Several other and similar statements were brought me yesterday (all unsolicited) respecting the rough manner in which the work is being carried out. I did all I could to induce the parties to go direct to Mr. McCallum with their complaints. They appeared to be very reluctant to do so, however, although I told them that Mr. McCallum would do all he could to assist them if, on investigation, he found he could do so.

A well known European gentleman wrote me yesterday afternoon mentioning a case. I asked him either to write you direct himself, or to the papers. In his reply to me he said "his clients do not wish to do so," giving their reasons which I can understand, and further he goes on to say that "I don't want my clients to feel that I have done them harm instead of good by telling you of their grievance." That is just the position we are in.

After I saw you on Monday last my intention was to let the whole matter drop altogether. After seeing, however, what I did on Wednesday afternoon and knowing the many rumours so extensively circulated in the colony I thought it best to write to the papers with a view to ventilate the whole question, well knowing that if my statements were correct things would be immediately rectified, and if they were wrong the public would very soon be made aware of it. In any case I hoped good would result.

The main object I had in writing was to suggest that the goods and merchandise of these Chinese merchants and shopkeepers should be handled with a little more care and also that some reasonable time be given them to remove their own goods themselves should they wish to do so.—Yours truly,

WM. DANBY.

The ACTING CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I beg to propose "That the Colonial Secretary be requested to furnish the Board with the opinion of the legal advisers of the Crown as to whether any legal steps can be

taken with a view to obtaining redress for the apparent misrepresentation made against the Board and its officers in Mr. Danby's letter."

The PRESIDENT—I think this letter contains accusations against the Board as a whole and against its officers, and though I would be the last to in any way curtail the rights of any person who has just complaints to make to come forward and make them to the Board—in such a case, I would encourage the fullest investigation—I have to protest against persons writing to the public newspapers stating that they know facts of their own personal knowledge which, upon investigation, appeared to be mere repetition of what others had told them. There was a good deal in this letter which certainly Mr. Danby did not see, as his letter seemed to imply he did. Mr. Danby reported certain matters to me which he knew of his own personal knowledge, and which he objected to be made public, but which have been circulated confidentially amongst the members of the Board, and the members will see from these papers that the information Mr. Danby sent was information that was told him and not what he ascertained to be fact or saw or knew from his own personal knowledge. With these few remarks I beg to second the resolution.

Mr. EDE—I did not see anything in that letter to the Press against the Board; against officers of the Board most certainly.

The PRESIDENT read the last paragraph of Mr. Danby's letter.

Mr. EDE—That is scarcely an accusation against the Board.

The ACTING CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I can only say these allegations were extremely felt by the police, who, I believe, have been doing their utmost to carry out their duties conscientiously in the matter and Constable Gourlay has asked that his conduct should be thoroughly investigated. He thinks Mr. Danby's letter has cast a slur upon his character.

Mr. EDE—Mr. Danby said he saw certain things. Would it not be better to get him to bring up his witnesses and have the matter investigated just as if it were before a Court? Mr. Danby said distinctly he saw certain things done. That was one witness, and there must have been other people there; the man who complained must have had servants of his own looking after his goods. They ought to come forward and prove their case. It is the same case as is referred to in the letter which will come forward presently in regard to the claim.

The PRESIDENT—There is no statement to show that this was the particular place at all.

Mr. EDE—He states distinctly he saw it done, and I think Mr. Danby is acting in good faith, and I should be very sorry if he—

The ACTING COLONIAL SURGEON—He certainly brings certain charges against certain of the Board's officers.

Mr. EDE—I cannot think I can support a resolution like that. That letter was sent in in good faith. If a man for such a thing as this is to be called upon by the Crown Solicitor to explain his conduct we will never get any evidence at all. I am perfectly certain the thing is not altogether right. I have heard of many complaints, and I am sorry they cannot be proved or disproved; but at the same time I think people ought to be encouraged to bring these matters to the notice of the public.

The ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I think it is a most unfortunate thing—

The PRESIDENT—Has anyone else a remark to make, because I think you had better make your reply afterwards.

There were no further remarks and the resolution was carried. Mr. Ede voted against it.

The PRESIDENT—There is now the question of the reply to be sent to the Colonial Secretary.

Mr. EDE quoted from the letter respecting the statement of Mr. McCallum concerning the cocklofts.

The PRESIDENT—Mr. Danby first observed that his object in writing to the public press in this matter was the fact that the people are not being treated the same—that they are not being treated fairly—and the paragraph to which you have just referred tends to support that by stating that he, in company with yourself and the Secretary, saw certain illegal cocklofts had not been removed, or cocklofts which he thought at the time were illegal. The whole of

that argument falls entirely to the ground in view of the recent correspondence between Mr. Danby and the Secretary, who investigated the Ordinance respecting cocklofts and took the trouble to write a letter to Mr. Danby, who was wrong, and the Secretary perfectly right. This letter is dated subsequent to that letter of the Secretary, and therefore I think it might fairly be said that not only is the statement incorrect, but that a most unfair advantage has been taken of the qualified expression of Mr. McCallum made on the spot about the legality or otherwise of the cocklofts.

Mr. EDE—Of course if you think it is right—

The PRESIDENT—I am quite prepared to amend the letter, but I think it ought to be fairly—

Mr. EDE—The rest of the statement is not correct.

The PRESIDENT—Mr. McCallum's opinion was not only qualified, but he subsequently informed Mr. Danby that the cocklofts were legal.

Mr. EDE—The last paragraph is a censure on Mr. Danby, which I do not approve of.

The PRESIDENT—I should like to make one or two remarks on two or three points raised in the minutes before I put the formal resolution which I have to move. There are two distinct charges by Mr. Danby. One is that the stock-in-trade was damaged by dirty water. I must say that on reading the charge over, the lack of what I considered distinct information was so great that it was almost impracticable for this Board or any of its officers to investigate it. Apparently, as far as one can read from this letter, it refers to the whole of Bonham Strand. The Board is aware that certain claims have come in respecting alleged damage to goods in Bonham Strand and the Board is also aware that its members and its officers are engaged in investigating those claims, and I think until we get definite information as to what the damage is that is alleged to have been done, also the premises on which it occurred, it is hardly of much use for the Board to occupy the time of its officers in investigating claims of such a general nature as those alleged in Mr. Danby's letter. Every person who thinks this Board has acted improperly and who has suffered damage can come forward and make a claim. Indeed, I may state this has been done already, but the result of this investigation, pending the settlement of the claim, I do not at the present moment propose to make public. As regards the abuse which Mr. Danby says he received from P.C. 103 I am sure the Captain Superintendent of Police and the officers of this Board will be perfectly ready to inquire further into that on the receipt from Mr. Danby of the nature of the abuse of which he has complained. There may be a difference of opinion as to what is abuse and there may be two sides to that question, which we can hardly decide on the general statement of abuse, and not until we are informed of the nature of the abuse complained of. As regards the incorrect expression which one paragraph in the letter as drafted might convey, as Mr. Ede has pointed out, I intend to amend the paragraph as follows. [The President here read his proposed alteration.] There is one matter in Mr. Ede's minute about which I might also be under a wrong impression. If I understand it rightly Mr. Ede is of opinion that because a Chinese trader in this colony has come forward and made a definite complaint against an officer acting under the instructions of this Board and until further evidence is adduced, that the word of the Chinese trader should be taken in preference to that of an officer of this Board.

Mr. EDE—I am inclined to believe the trader in this case as against the denial of the officer.

The PRESIDENT—Well, I have only to point out to the members of this Board—

Mr. EDE—Don't put it in such a general way as you did just now.

The PRESIDENT—I am perfectly—

Mr. EDE—You put it in such a way as to make it appear that I always believe a Chinaman before an officer of the Board. In this particular case I am disposed to believe the trader as against the other man—as against P.C. 103.

The PRESIDENT—Because as a rule Chinese are unwilling to make specific complaints

against specific individuals." I have to remind the members of this Board that it is comparatively recently that an officer of this Board had a specific complaint made against him in two cases by a great number of residents in the districts in which it was his duty to enforce the sanitary regulations. Investigations were made and it turned out that the charges made against the officer were quite unfounded. Under these circumstances I regret I cannot agree with Mr. Ede in thinking in this case we ought to take the word of the complainant against that of the policeman 103, although at the same time I am extremely glad to think that the circumstances are such as to enable me and some of the members of this Board to support the officer against whom the complaint is made. There is one other point in Mr. Ede's minute, in which he says, "No mention is made about the ceiling which we saw in Bonham Strand." Well, I read the letter carefully through before I drafted the proposed reply and I am sorry to say I cannot find any mention of the ceiling.

Mr. EDE—Which letter?

The PRESIDENT—Mr. Danby's.

Mr. EDE—That matter has been explained. It refers to a house we went to and Mr. Danby said "Look at this. This has been taken down, and if this is taken down why are not the others?" It certainly was a ceiling and Mr. McCallum said he would investigate the matter. He has since done so and he told me two days ago—since I wrote the minute—that the place was illegal because it was not a certain number of feet in height and because it contained cubicles. It certainly looked at first as if the ceiling had been improperly pulled down.

The PRESIDENT—There is nothing specific in reference to that in this letter as far as I can see.

Mr. EDE—The whole thing hinges on that.

The PRESIDENT—Upon this ceiling?

Mr. EDE—Upon his client's cockloft as he called it. I call it a ceiling. It was a high ceiling—fourteen feet or so.

The PRESIDENT—He refers to cocklofts.

Mr. EDE—He called it a cockloft, but it was found to be really a ceiling.

The PRESIDENT—It does not appear that Mr. Danby was of that opinion. The letter drafted was only intended to be a reply to Mr. Danby's letter and not to the numerous complaints.

Mr. EDE—That is immaterial.

The PRESIDENT—I do not know whether there is anything more that the Board can do in this matter. Careful inquiry has been made of what has taken place and the various reports have been circulated to the members of this Board, and after consideration of those reports the attached draft was circulated for the approval of members, and I now propose that the letter as amended be approved by the Board.

The ACTING CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE seconded.

Mr. EDE—You state that Mr. Danby has not given definite information as to the goods he saw damaged by water and also roughly treated. But surely he could have been called upon to say what goods they were. He must have known exactly what they were, the time they were damaged, and the house, and I think he might be called upon to say where they were. Perhaps that would clear up the matter as he could give definite evidence as to what goods they were.

The PRESIDENT—In reply to Mr. Ede I may state that had this letter been addressed to the Board I think there are a great many matters in it which the Board might very fairly have asked Mr. Danby for more information upon, but as it was not addressed to the Board, and as I have no reason to believe that Mr. Danby is prepared to give particulars of the numbers of the houses or the names of the persons concerned in his complaints—in fact he has already refused to give me permission to make use of such information as he has given me on the subject—I do not think the Board can do more than acknowledge the receipt of this letter from the Colonial Secretary and forward this report for the information of His Excellency the Governor. The resolution is that the letter as amended be approved.

Mr. EDE—Do you omit the last paragraph?

The PRESIDENT—No, I do not consider that is necessary. Has anybody got any amendment to make?

Mr. EDE—I move that the last paragraph be omitted.

The PRESIDENT—Does anybody second that? There was no seconder and the resolution was put and carried, only Mr. Ede voting against it.

The following is a copy of the letter it was resolved to forward to the Colonial Secretary:—

Sir.—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 775 of the 15th inst. enclosing a letter that appeared in the *China Mail*, under the heading "Cleansing of the City," dated the 14th May, and over the signature of Mr. W. Danby.

This letter purports to advert to the "crusade" now being waged against illegal cocklofts and sunshades in this city by the officials of the Sanitary Board and to contain a plain statement of facts which have come under Mr. Danby's personal knowledge since Friday, the 8th inst.

Before dealing with the alleged facts I have to point out that no crusade is being waged by the officials of the Sanitary Board against illegal cocklofts and sunshades in particular.

The efforts of the officials of the Sanitary Board during the last few months, owing to the unfortunate reappearance of the bubonic plague, and which at one time threatened to assume alarming proportions, have been mainly directed against the state of filth that was found to exist in many houses in the city and the obstructions of windows and ventilating openings preventing, and in many cases practically entirely precluding, the free access of air and light into the dwellings.

The Board were convinced that the prompt adoption and prosecution of measures to remedy this state of affairs were the only practical means of arresting the progress of the disease, and the material reduction in the number of cases recently occurring in the city certainly tends to strengthen such conviction.

These operations have been confined to the neighbourhoods affected by the bubonic plague and within the limits defined by the Board under by-law No. 22, Ordinance 15 of 1894, and no steps, as far as the Board is aware, have been taken by its officers other than those necessary to thoroughly cleanse and disinfect premises found in a dirty or insanitary condition.

Proceeding to the alleged facts contained in Mr. Danby's letter, Policemen No. 103 denies that on the afternoon of the 8th inst. he gave verbal notice to the owners of large houses in Bonham Strand that "the whitewashing brigade with its irresponsible contingent of soldiers and coolies were coming round next morning at 7.30 a.m. to pull down their cocklofts, &c." Mr. Danby fails to give the number of premises occupied by his client, so that further particular enquiry, as to alleged damage done to his clients' cargo and stock-in-trade is not practicable.

Dr. Clark assures the Board that as far as practicable under the circumstances every consideration has been shown to the owners and occupiers of premises and as little damage done consistent with the prompt thorough cleansing and disinfection of the premises, and the Board does not admit that any unnecessary damage has been done.

The next alleged fact is that the "gangs" pulled down legal cocklofts and allowed illegal ones to remain.

It appears that Mr. Danby does not know what cocklofts are legal and which are illegal, but the Board at once admits that whether the special provision of the Ordinances regarding certain structures are complied with or not, if their removal is necessary for the thorough cleansing and disinfection of the premises they are removed, and many of the cocklofts removed were so rotten and filthy as in themselves to cause a serious danger to health, whilst others obstructed windows and ventilating openings.

The statement relative to a visit to certain premises in company with Mr. Ede and Mr. McCallum is in the opinion of the Board calculated to give an incorrect impression.

These premises were situated in Wing Sing Street and though Mr. McCallum was at first of opinion that some cocklofts which had not been removed were illegal, after studying the

provisions of the Ordinance he found that they were legal and duly informed Mr. Danby of the fact on Monday, 10th inst., viz., four days before the date of Mr. Danby's communication to the press.

The fact that these cocklofts were still in existence testifies to the discrimination of what Mr. Danby refers to as "the whitewashing brigade with its irresponsible contingent of soldiers and coolies."

The next statement refers to Mr. Danby having received "reliable information as to how the 'oracle' is worked (i.e. allowing illegal cocklofts to remain). Chapter and verse were given me; I reported this to headquarters."

This the Board understands refers to certain statements made to the President on Monday, the 10th inst.

In view of Mr. Danby's letter appearing in the papers the President wrote to him requesting his consent to the publication of the information (omitting names) he furnished him with and received the attached reply dated the 16th of May, from which it will be seen that Mr. Danby states "the information was given confidentially for what it was worth with a view to you (the President) having it verified or otherwise."

Mr. Danby evidently on the 16th inst. considered the statements required verification before acceptance. In that opinion the President thoroughly concurred. The statement "as to how the oracle was worked" referred to a certain person not connected with the Board having offered to work the oracle on receipt of certain sums of money, Mr. Danby's inference being that the money received was participated in by the officers of the Board.

The President had inquiries made and ascertained that the alleged illegal cocklofts were legal and that their condition did not render their removal necessary.

As to whether or not the sums of money named were paid the President did not inquire, but from inquiries that have been made the Board is informed that the price of preparing plans for the alteration of cocklofts has reached the handsome sum of from \$25 to \$75 each, so that doubtless large sums of money have been paid to work the "oracle," viz., the parties entrusted with the preparation of such plans.

The conduct of a certain policeman in reference to his action after receiving a note signed by the Secretary is too vague to admit of definite investigation, neither the number of policeman nor that of the premises referred to being given.

In reference to the removal of the sunshade in front of No. 51, Bonham Strand and permission being given to retain the one at No. 55 the following is the explanation.

The former was in a very dirty and rotten condition and was removed as a nuisance; the latter is in fairly good condition and has been recently painted.

In the concluding paragraph of the letter Mr. Danby states that his reason for writing "is that the regulations are not carried out consistently without fear or favour," whilst in his letter to the President of the 16th inst. he states that his "main object was to suggest that the goods and merchandise of these Chinese merchants and shopkeepers should be handled with a little more care and also that some reasonable time should be given to remove their own goods themselves should they wish to do so."

It appears to the Board that between the 14th and 16th inst. Mr. Danby obtained information which caused him to shift his ground and to even doubt the accuracy of the plain statement of facts which he alleged had come under his own personal knowledge, in his letter of the 14th inst.—I have, &c.,

H. MCCALLUM,
Secretary, Sanitary Board.

To Hon. Colonial Secretary.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended 9th May the death rate was 27.9 per 1,000 per annum against 17.5 for the corresponding period of last year. For the week ended 16th May the death rate was 28.7 against 15.5 for the corresponding period of last year.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned until next Thursday week.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT.

At the Police Court on the 25th May before Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Frank Walker the Hongkong manager of the Vacuum Oil Company, was charged with embezzling sums of money amounting in all to \$2,572.76. Mr. V. H. Deacon, who represented the defendant, applied for a remand until Friday and the request was granted. Walker was arrested by Detective Sergeant Holt in Queen's Road on Saturday. It is alleged that the money was embezzled between the 1st April and the 20th May.

SERIOUS AFFRAY ON THE "MARTHA"

TWO COOLIES SHOT: THE SECOND ENGINEER ARRESTED.

Soon after noon on 25th May the police flag was seen flying at the mast head of the German steamer *Martha* and with all possible speed Inspector Hanson, Sergeant Withers, and other officers went off to the ship in a police pinnace and learnt that a serious affray had taken place on board. It seems that cargo was being discharged, when a sharp shower of rain came on and the second mate ordered three or four cargo coolies to close down the fore hatch. They obstinately refused to obey the order and the officer caught hold of one of them and pushed him towards the hatch. As he did this a cry of "Ta, ta" was raised and immediately all the cargo working coolies, about fifty in number, gathered on deck, picked up dunnage wood and iron bars which were lying about the deck, and threw them at the second mate. The second engineer, a German named Peter Grunwald, heard the yelling of the coolies and the alarm of the second mate, and on seeing the serious nature of the outbreak he went to his cabin and returned on deck with his loaded revolver. He fired half a dozen shots amongst the coolies and thus quelled the disturbance and scattered the turbulent men. Two of the coolies, however, were wounded, one of them very seriously in the back, and the second in the thigh. When the police got aboard the *Martha* they despatched the two coolies to the Government Civil Hospital, where they are detained, and the second engineer was formally taken into custody and charged with shooting them.

THE ROBBERY AND MURDER AT WANCHAI.

THE MURDERER BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE.

At the Police Court on the 20th May, before Hon. Commander Hastings, Tong Fung (24), a boiler maker, of San On, was charged with the murder of Lau, district watchman No. 38, on the 2nd inst.

P. C. Hoggarth said—On the 2nd inst. at 10.25 p.m. I was in Wanchai Road, at the north end of Cross Street. I heard some people shouting and then several Chinamen ran out of Cross Street on to the Wanchai Road. They ran in the direction of Queen's Road. I gave chase and they turned into Tring Kai Lane and went through into Albany Street to Queen's Road. I caught the defendant in the Queen's Road, opposite No. 3 Police Station. A man in dark clothes then ran past. He had been running behind the defendant. I could have caught him before, but I wished to catch the leading man. It was a dark night, but defendant was caught about forty yards from an electric light. I could see quite clearly. District Watchman No. 38 was standing close by us and I handed defendant over to him. Defendant made no resistance. I told the district watchman in English to hold defendant till I had caught the man that had run past. I ran on and the man in dark clothes was still in sight. When I had gone about fifty yards I heard a pistol shot behind me. I turned to ascertain the cause, when I saw defendant shoot the district watchman, who fell backwards on to the footpath. Defendant turned, and I ran after him. I was about forty yards behind him when defendant, who was then near No. 3 Police Station, fired a third shot. I did not observe in what direction he fired. Defendant then

turned sharp to the left down a narrow lane which is nameless. I fired at the defendant as he was turning into the lane. Apparently my shot took effect as I gained rapidly on defendant. He entered an empty house on the right. I fired a second shot at him as he was entering the doorway. Defendant went through the house, but did not succeed in getting over the fence at the back separating it from Albany Street. I did not enter the house. I could see defendant turn at the fence and enter the adjoining house, through which I could hear him coming across the loose timber in the house. I went further down and saw him coming out of the doorway into the lane, when I fired my revolver at him for the third time and he dropped and crawled into an adjoining house, where I arrested him. He was wounded in both feet. I found the revolver produced lying at his feet. There are five chambers in it and three cartridges had been discharged. I picked up the bullet produced in Queen's Road, opposite No. 3 Police Station, just where defendant fired his third shot. I took defendant to No. 2 Police Station, where he was charged. I saw P. C. 223 in the Government Civil Hospital, suffering from a bullet wound in the thigh. He might have been in Queen's Road at the time without my seeing him. The coat produced is that worn by defendant when I arrested him. The hole in the left sleeve smelt of powder when I arrested him.

Dr. Atkinson said—On the 2nd inst., at 11.30 p.m. P. C. Li Liu, 223, was admitted to the Government Civil Hospital with a bullet wound in the right thigh. The bullet had evidently entered in the outer part of the thigh, passed behind the bone, and emerged at the inner part. The man was discharged to-day with the wounds healed up. At 2.15 a.m. on the 3rd inst. the defendant was admitted to the hospital and on examination he was found to have a bullet wound in the right foot, passing right through and fracturing the bones. There was also a bullet wound on the outer part of the left ankle. The bullet was found flattened against the bone under the skin of the inner part of the heel.

Dr. Marques said—On the 4th inst. I made a post-mortem examination at the Government mortuary on the body of Chinese watchman No. 38. His coat, waistcoat, and singlet were covered with blood. On his chest, over the second breast bone, there was a bullet wound a little towards the right side. There was another bullet over the liver, and there was also a bullet wound on the right fore-arm about six inches below the wrist. The left lung was wounded. Near the left shoulder blade I found a bullet. In my opinion death was caused by hemorrhage in the left lung. The wound over the liver was also a fatal one.

Evidence was also given by Sergeant Baker, who spoke to finding the body of the watchman.

P. C. Li Lin, 223, said—I was in No. 3 Police station at 10.20 on the night of the 2nd inst. when I heard a whistle blown. I ran into Queen's Road and saw the defendant in the custody of a district watchman and immediately after I heard the report of a revolver shot and also saw the flash come from where defendant was standing. Immediately afterwards I saw and heard another shot and then the district watchman fell down. On seeing me defendant fired at me and hit me on the right thigh. I did not feel much pain at the time and I continued running. I saw P. C. Haggarth fire his revolver twice in the lane. I blew my whistle and ran down Albany Street in order to meet the defendant. When I got there I saw him trying to climb up some hoarding and on seeing me he went back to the house. I then felt pain and sat on the ground. I was afterwards taken to the Government Civil Hospital. I identified the defendant to-day. He had been put amongst several others in the gaol and he was then fully clothed.

Defendant—I did not shoot him.

The case was adjourned until the 28th.

The four other men charged with being concerned in the robbery and murder were brought up earlier in the day and remanded until the 28th. The master of the shop where the robbery occurred has not yet returned to the colony.

MR. FRANCIS AND THE NAVY LEAGUE.

On the afternoon of the 22nd inst. in the St. Andrew's Hall, Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., addressed a meeting of the members of the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League. Mr. A. Coxon presided and said that the Hongkong Branch was established in September last and the members now number 103. He then read extracts from the *Navy League Journal* giving the objects of the League and said the doctrine of the League had been warmly taken up in all parts of the British Empire and there was no doubt that at the next general election the question would be of the first importance. He urged every young man to join the Volunteers in order to be prepared, if necessary, to defend the rights of his country.

Mr. Francis, who was warmly received, said he had very little to say that he had not said on two previous occasions—once when he addressed the Hongkong Police and once when he addressed the Odd Volumes Society. He thought, perhaps, he ought to apologise for coming there with very little that was new, but it was difficult in Hongkong to get people to do their duty in public speaking, and as he had given a great deal of attention to naval and military matters and had always taken a general interest in them and was well acquainted with the literature which had been published on the subject, he thought it was his duty to bring the subject to the front in Hongkong. The Navy League had gained an enormous success in England and had taken root throughout the colonies. The League was not constituted for the purpose of instructing the Admiralty or in any way dictating to the Government as to the way the navy should be controlled. It was constituted for the purpose of bringing before the Government as forcibly as possible the necessity there exists for a powerful navy and to see that it was sufficient for the performance of the work that the Empire calls upon it to perform. The most important matter for the consideration of every member of the League was, what is it we have to guard and to safeguard by means of our navy? Mr. Francis quoted figures respecting the commerce of the British Isles and the figures dealing with the navies of various countries and said that the motto of the League was "Defence, not defiance." He then compared the action of the police in Hongkong respecting the night and pass regulations in order to keep the Chinese in their own houses and the blockading of an enemy's ports in time of war. It was absolutely necessary for our own safety to keep the enemy inside the ports, just as it was necessary to guard our highways in Hongkong by keeping the lower classes of Chinese indoors at night. The power that was able to effectively blockade its enemies would maintain command of the sea, but in order to accomplish such a blockade it was necessary, experts told us, to have a preponderance of five to three. At the present time our fleet was not strong enough for this and it ought to be increased for the purpose of insuring the perfect safety of everything we possess against the attack of all possible enemies. He had often been asked whether the people of Hongkong could do anything substantial in the interest of the League. Only one idea had suggested itself to him, but he did not know whether it was practicable, and that was whether a naval training ship could be established in Hongkong for British sailors employed in this part of the world, who could be trained and got together in time of war to repair losses sustained on our side. It had struck him as possible that practical men might be able to devise some means by which a training ship could be established here and by which a sort of Naval Reserve could be formed out of the British seamen travelling backwards and forwards. Of course only a nucleus could be formed, but it would be of very great assistance in time of war. This was the only suggestion he could make, but there were a good many men here with a practical knowledge and he commended it to their attention. In conclusion he thanked those present for the patient hearing afforded him and hoped they would do all they possibly could to

induce their friends to become members of the League. (Applause.)

Hon. Commander Hastings moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Francis and hoped the seed he had sown had not fallen on stony ground.

Hon. H. E. Pollock asked if there was a branch of the League at Shanghai or Singapore.

The Chairman said one was about to be started at Shanghai, but there was not one in Singapore.

Hon. H. E. Pollock said this branch of the Navy League might press upon the neighbouring ports the necessity of establishing branches there. He was glad to hear a branch was to be started at Shanghai and he ventured to suggest that the Committee of the Navy League here should communicate with the leading residents of Singapore and urge upon them the necessity of starting a Navy League branch.

The Chairman said that there were several members resident in Shanghai, Amoy, and Canton, and he was told by the Secretary that a branch was being started at Chinkiang. The head office had sent out papers to every Chamber of Commerce in the East and also to the Straits Association and the China Association.

Mr. Francis remarked that there were many members belonging to Swatow and Amoy.

This concluded the meeting.

A. S. WATSON AND CO. LIMITED.

The eleventh annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in A. S. Watson & Co., Limited, was held on the 21st May, at noon, in the Board room at the Hongkong Dispensary. Mr. J. D. Humphreys presided, and there were also present—Messrs. A. H. Mancell (Secretary), H. Wicking, M. Bernheim, Hart Buck, T. Arnold, J. A. Jupp, W. Parlane, J. S. Hagan, E. K. Chandler, W. H. Potts, J. H. Garrels, E. W. Terry, D. W. Craddock, T. F. Hough, J. R. Michael, Captain F. Clarke.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, with your permission we will take the report and statement of accounts as read. There is very little to add to the report, as I think you will agree with me that it clearly shows you that your business is in a sound and healthy condition. With reference to the goodwill and trade marks, it has been the opinion of some of our shareholders that the book value should be written off, and although I personally did not share this opinion, yet I have much pleasure in yielding my views to those of others, the more so inasmuch as the amount at which it stood, viz., a lakh of dollars, did not adequately represent its full value. The present time also seems to be in every way a suitable occasion for writing it off, as, with the dividend which we now advise, the Company has returned to its shareholders since its registration in 1886, a sum of \$629,600 in dividends, that is to say, \$29,600 more than the amount of its present capital of \$600,000. In connection with this, it will further be remembered that the present capital is \$220,000 more than the capital with which the Company was registered, and that the reserve funds are much more than fully represented by the net value of your properties in land and buildings. I shall be pleased to answer any question.

There were no questions and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. WICKING seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the re-election of Mr. F. Maitland as auditor.

Mr. ARNOLD seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—There is nothing more gentlemen, except to thank you for your attendance and to say that dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

Mr. WICKING—I have much pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to the General Managers of the Company for their services.

Carried.

The N. C. Daily News of the 19th May says:—It is with very great regret that we have to announce that the long illness of Mrs. George Jamieson terminated yesterday in her death. No lady in Shanghai was better loved or more respected, or better deserved to be loved and respected; and the deepest sympathy is felt for the husband and children she has left.

JELEBU MINING AND TRADING CO. LIMITED.

The following is the report of the directors of this Company:—

Your directors submit a statement of the Company's accounts for the period from 19th August, 1895, to 13th February, 1896, being the second half of the seventh year of the Company's existence by the Chinese calendar.

The total number of mines at work in Jelebu on February 13th, 1896, was nine against nineteen at the end of the last half year.

The labour force in Jelebu has decreased by 322 men, and is now 717.

The amount of ore and tin produced and delivered during the period under report was:—

3,929 piculs ore against 3,404 piculs ore for the previous half year, and against 4,047 piculs ore and 176 piculs tin for the corresponding or last half of 1894.

The outstanding advances amounted on 13th February (after deducting \$10,620 written off as bad and doubtful debts) to \$19,935. The manager at Jelebu reports these advances to be safe.

After paying all charges, writing off the cost of prospecting, and making the usual allowances for depreciation of houses, plant, and furniture, there remains at the credit of profit and loss account the balance of \$1,492.

Out of this balance your directors recommend the sum of \$938 to be placed to the reserve fund to bring the total of the reserve fund to \$10,000. The remaining balance of \$554 is proposed to be carried forward.

The Company continues to work the remaining alluvial mines at Jelebu, and will do so as long as circumstances will permit. Nearly \$30,000 have been spent during the existence of the Company on prospecting for new payable land; and it is considered that any further expenditure in this direction is inadvisable.

The Company continues at Jelebu the work of testing the Rin lode, which has now been proved to a large depth. The twenty-five tons of lode-stuff, referred to in last report, have been forwarded to Europe for treatment, and it is hoped that the result will be a favourable one. So far about \$12,000 have been expended on the prospecting of this lode, which sum has been entirely written off. The outlay would have been considerably larger but for the fact that the proceeds of a quantity of tin won during the operations were credited to the prospecting account.

The development of the Maliwun Concession in Lower Burmah is being pushed on as steadily as is possible, and it is hoped that the initial difficulties, which still are chiefly labour-supply and opium-smuggling, will be overcome soon. Prospecting for further alluvial deposits, which was carried on during the half year, has so far not given favourable results; but, since the operations extended only to a small fraction of the concession, it would be premature to arrive now at definite conclusions, and arrangements have been made to have this work continued with the least possible expense to the Company.

The Company is now also considering the advisability of prospecting and eventually working the various extensive reefs at Maliwun. From the extracts of the manager's letter, which will be found below, it will be seen that the prospects of mining these lodes look very hopeful. Meanwhile, \$65,190 have been spent on the concession, and that sum is taken in the accounts as a good asset.

The director to retire by rotation is the Hon. Dr. Lim Boon Keng, who offers himself for reelection. The other, Mr. A. J. Gunn, retires from office, and offers himself for re-election.

J. P. JOAQUIM, } Directors.
ARNOT REID, }

HUTTENBACH BROS. & Co., General Agents.

The following is an extract from Mr. Money's latest letter from Maliwun, dated April 10th, 1896:—

"The work that we ought especially give our attention to just now, and which is leaving our attention, is the North Hill; if it proves to be anything like what we expect it to turn out, it will be a good thing. Mr. Adam, when he reported on this concession, examined the centre hill, Khaw Muang, and said he had traced the line of reef from hill to hill. However, as far as I could gather, he had not struck what we call the North Hill. He, however, speaks of the Khaw Muang or Centre Hill in the most glowing terms.

"In fact," to quote from his reports, "if I recollect rightly I wrote to you in December that I considered the deposit an extraordinary one. Now I put it stronger still and say it is a most extraordinary deposit, altogether beyond anything I have ever seen in my travels, nor have I ever heard of any miner or prospector meeting anything so rich."

He quotes as having obtained nearly 14 lbs. of ore out of 1 cubic yard of unselected rock in one place and from another, the most unlikely he could see, from 2 cubic yards 14lbs. of ore.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDED 13TH FEBRUARY, 1896.

LIABILITIES.	\$
To capital 45,000 at \$5 each	225,000
To dividends unpaid	870
To reserve fund	9,062
To unpaid charges and sundry creditors ..	5,696
Balance of profit and loss	1,492
ASSETS.	\$242,120
Cost of houses, &c., from last account \$3,987	
Additions to property	236
Less sales of property	472
Less 25 per cent. written off	937
	2,813
Cost of house and godown furniture, trade utensils, plant, waterways, and roads	\$4,266
Additions	152
Less sales	100
Less 15 per cent. written off	647
	3,671
Cost of 25 bullocks and 8 carts ..	\$720
Depreciation written off	100
	620
Cost of ore bags from last account ..	\$362
Additions to stock	345
Depreciation written off	401
	307
Cost of stores in stock for sale to miners.	
Balance of advances to miners ..	\$22,556
Less written off as doubtful	\$11,620
	10,935
Value of ore in stock on 13th February.	21,580
Cash in hands of General Agents	14
Cash in manager's hands at Jelebu	5,401
Amounts on fixed deposit and balance of current	112,732
Sundry debtors	10,000
Maliwun concession account cost of concession	5,000
Cost of buildings, plant, furniture, boats, carts, and bullocks, and ore bags	14,017
Cost of provisions, stores, opium, and medicines for sale	3,143
Cost of ore in stock	11,357
Balance of advances to miners ..	9,486
Working and prospecting expenses ..	19,479
Cash in manager's hand	2,560
Sundry debtors	658
	\$65,701
Less sundry creditors	511
	65,190

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDED 13TH FEBRUARY, 1896.

	\$
Balance from last account	15,937
Less transfer to reserve fund	15,937
25 per cent. written off from buildings and plant	937
15 per cent. written off from furniture and trade utensils	647
Depreciation written off from ore bags	400
Depreciation written off from carts and bullocks	100
Cost of prospecting	3,109
General charges at Jelebu	4,143
General charges at Singapore, directors' fees	\$900
Auditor's fees, stationery, printing, etc.	453
Agents' commission	1,630
	2,983
Amount written off from advances as doubtful ..	11,620
Balance	1,492
	\$25,344
Royalty and profit on ore and tin	16,587
Profit on store and general business	6,245
Bank interest	2,560
	\$25,344

[Cents omitted.]

RAUB.

The following is the mining manager's report for the four weeks ending 8th May, 1896:—

Raub Hole Section.—The main drive going south at the 220 feet level is in 15 feet from the crosscut. There is no change to report. The lode formation still continues small, from 2 in. to 3 in., the ground being very hard black slate and is making a lot of water. I have stopped this drive, as it is in far enough for the present.

The Main Drive going north on the formation at this level has been extended 15 feet and is now in 40 feet from the crosscut. The lode still continues small from 3 in. to 4 in., but carries no gold. There are a good many cross leaders making in this drive, but they do not carry any gold. It is my intention to continue this drive some distance in the hopes of finding another make of stone.

Intermediate Drive, south from the winze. This is now in 65 feet from the winze. In the face the lode is 14 in. in the back and 8 in. in the bottom of the level. Gold can be seen in breaking the stone. There are two stopes coming in from the winze over the back of this drive which show fair gold, but the lode is small, 8 to 10 inches. In the north end there are two stopes going in on the lode, which is from 6 in. thick in the bottom to 15 in. in the top of the working. These stopes show good gold.

Bukit Koman.—The main drives both north and south at the No. 1 level are being steadily extended. In the face of the drive going north the lode is fully 14 feet wide, all of which is being sent to the mill for crushing. The lode in this face is still widening and the water is not so troublesome as it was, as it is all now coming from under foot. As this is very good ground to work, a large quantity of crushing stuff is being sent from here. In the face of the south drive the lode is from four to five feet thick, well defined, solid, and shows fair gold. It has nice working slate both on the foot and hanging wall and good progress is being made. There is now a large amount of ground available for stoping over the backs of this level, which I estimate to produce not less than 50,000 tons of ore for crushing—practically I see no limit to the extension of these levels on this great lode. There is not much doing in the stopes, as we do not require the crushing stuff from them, as the levels and leading south stopes supply most of the crushing stuff. The leading stope south coming in 120 feet behind the face of the drive is from 14 to 15 feet wide of solid quartz, showing fair gold all through. In the engine shaft the new 10-in. pump is fixed at the 250 feet level and ready for work.

Bukit Malacca.—All work has been suspended here owing to the pump not being sufficiently powerful to keep out the water, the 8-in. draw-lift working on a 3 ft. stroke, 48 strokes per minutes, not being able to do so. We shall not only require a much larger pump but more steam power to sink this shaft deeper. The present depth is 93½ feet; in the last 2 or 3 ft. several small leaders have made into the shaft, in which gold can be seen. I do not think from the appearance of the ground in the bottom of the shaft that we are far from the lode.

Western Lode.—This is the most entire formation I have ever met with. Some parts of it are almost vertical; it then lies flat from 40 to 60 feet, then rises again with an eastern underlie and splits into several branches which make it difficult to follow and work. It still continues to make south into new ground and carries very fair gold. As it is all new untried ground in this direction, it is hard to say how far it may continue. An average quantity of crushing stuff has been sent to the mill from these workings, which are turning out much better than ever I expected, and I see no reason why they should not continue to do so for some considerable time.

Battery.—This has been kept steadily at work night and day during the month. About seven hours, however, was lost owing to the piston of the donkey pump that feeds the boiler giving out.

A general clean-up took place on Monday last for the months of March and April, 2,511 tons yielding 1,121 oz. 2 dwts. smelted gold. Crushing was resumed again the same night and has continued steadily since.

WM. BIBBY.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The closing cruise took place on the 17th inst. in splendid weather, the burning rays of the sun being tempered by a fine westerly breeze. Owing to the lateness of the season the attendance was not so large as usual.

The Commodore (Commodore Boyes, R.N.) hoisted his flag on the Ladybird and left the anchorage about noon followed by the Meteor, She, Arrow, and Seabreeze, and later on by the Erica.

A course was shaped for Stonecutters' Island, where the crews had tiffin, but did not inspect the forts with cameras.

In the afternoon a Ladies' race was held, in which the following boats started:—Arrow (Mrs. Welman), Ladybird (Miss Marjory Boyes), Erica (Mrs. Denison), She (Miss Hazeland). The course was from the Hygeia round a buoy off the Cosmopolitan Dock and back, about 2 miles.

Erica and Ladybird timed the start nicely, crossing the line within a few seconds after the starting signal. On the way to the dock Ladybird passed Erica to windward and rounded the Buoy first. The She was some distance behind.

The Arrow apparently did not notice Stonecutters' Island, as she ran on to the shore of it and remained fast, having eventually to be towed off by the Commodore's steam pinnace. After rounding the Buoy the Erica again went into first place and the race finished thus:—

Erica	1
Ladybird	2
She	3

The prizes were presented by the Commodore as follows:—

Mrs. Denison—Pair of silver bowls; Miss Marjory Boyes—Gold bangle; Miss Hazeland—Gold brooch.

A pleasant sail home ended up the proceedings of the Club for this season.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

SPORTING INFORMATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—In reply to an inquiry by "New Comer" in your paper of yesterday's date, I beg to offer what little information I have respecting his questions.

1.—Yes; there are proper tigers in China, Manchuria, and Korea; also leopards or panthers are very numerous in some parts of these countries. Considering the very few tigers shot in China as compared to the immense numbers killed in India, the Chinese tiger will average in length that of the Indian breed. The average length of tigers shot in China is about 9 ft. in males and 8 ft. in females; but if the country had been as much explored by sportsmen as India has, the average would exceed the above lengths. Immensely long tigers are not always proportionately large; they are mostly thin and low animals; the heaviest and most muscular tigers average about 9 ft. 6 in. The longest tiger shot in India measured 12 ft. 2 in. and very recently one was killed that measured 12 ft. 0½ in.; this animal was shot by a lady. In China there are several good records one of 10 ft. 6 in. and another of 11 ft. 2 in. Natives have captured very large tigers in the interior. I have measured tanned skins in Shanghai and found some of them as long as 12 ft. 9 in., and they were not "faked" in any way. Very large tigers must have reached the age of maturity, which is supposed to be four years. The Chinese tiger is better marked than its Indian brother, and the skin commands a higher price in the European markets. A full grown Chinese tiger will fetch a price of £100 in some of the large zoological gardens in Europe; the Indian will not fetch a higher price than £70. The Indian tiger, being a jungle animal, gets his hair and skin very much damaged through friction in the jungle, and as a rule is not very well fed. The Chinese breed is a very well fed animal and generally inhabits the hills. The ferocity of the latter when aroused and put to bay is equal to that of the Indian, but it is not

so aggressive. The tiger living in the jungle has less supply of food and will attack more instantaneously and with less provocation.

2.—They are found mostly all over China; chiefly in the provinces of Fuhkien, Kiangsi, Kwantung, and Kwangsi, and locally around Canton, Swatow, Amoy, and Foochow. [N.B.—Occasionally one about the size of a buffalo visits a place called Tytam in Hongkong; but owing to the bad quality of the water he returns again to his own native hills on the mainland.] A gentleman in Amoy has shot 19 to his own rifle and has been present at the death of 40; all in the neighbourhood of that pleasant city. There are man-eaters.

3.—There are plenty of wild pig all over China, especially in the Yangtze districts; some of them are very large and the boars have fine tusks. Their colour is of a dirty brown, and the young ones have six stripes running along their backs.

With regard to the express rifle, if "New Comer" anticipates purchasing one he should first get some personal advice from some one in reference to same. As he does not know what an express rifle is, I will as briefly as possible try and describe it. An express rifle is not an express train, although there is a similarity in the principles of both. The express rifle is made in gauges ranging from 360 to 577 the latter gauge being the largest and most efficacious. It is purely a sporting rifle, and its maximum range of accuracy may be limited to 300 yards. It is based on a principle that gives great velocity and flat trajectory, and a point blank range up to 170 yards; or, in other words, the rifle can be used effectively up to 150 yards with the 50 yards sight only. The grooving is a slow spiral about one turn in 46 inches, thus reducing the friction and giving sufficient spin to the bullet to carry it accurately up to all sporting distances. Several forms of grooving are adopted, the best being the oval shaped. The express charge is a heavy charge of powder to a light expansive bullet, the weight of powder to lead being about 1 to 2.5. Heavy bullets may also be used with good effect, but it is not the express principle. As to the price of a double rifle, if "New Comer" has a fair stock of common sense he can get a very good one for £15, but if he is overstocked with money and wants to get rid of some of it he can buy one for £80. American rifles of 4570 or 4590 are good enough for pig, but not for tiger.

Apologising for occupying so much of your valuable space.—I am, sir, yours faithfully,

G. W.

Hongkong, 20th May, 1896.

TORPEDO CATCHERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Can any of your readers tell me if there is such a thing as a torpedo catcher attached to the British China Squadron, and, if not, why not at least two, one for the defence of Hongkong and one for Singapore? The waters surrounding these stations are not only conveniently suited to the manoeuvres of torpedo boats, but are likewise suitable to their pursuer, the torpedo boat catcher. At a pinch the catchers could be utilized as special despatch boats.

ENQUIRER.

Hongkong, 20th May, 1896.

MR. DANBY AND THE SANITARY BOARD OFFICIALS!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Mr. Wm. Danby's recent letter in your columns, read in the light of yesterday's Sanitary Board meeting, looks suspiciously like a common electioneering dodge. In the opinion of many people with whom I have discussed the matter he would have done wiser if he had not published it. Unfortunately for some people, the rare opportunity of dealing a blow—if "below the belt," so much the better—at any section of officialdom is much too tempting a chance to be lightly thrown away. If such incautious individuals get badly "upper cut" in return, they only get what they richly deserve. Sympathy, under such circumstances, is wholly out of the question.—Yours faithfully,

CARBOLIC.

Hongkong, 22nd May, 1896.

FAMINE IN KWANGSI.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—During my recent visit to Kwangsi I advised H.M.'s Acting Consul in Canton that great distress for want of food prevailed in the province, which bordered on famine. It was a common thing in the country to see children of both sexes offered for sale in order to obtain money to buy food. Since then I am informed from most reliable sources that a famine has developed in all its most terrible form and that children are being killed and eaten. It is hard to believe such an awful state of things, but from what I have seen myself three months ago, when domestic animals of every kind, rats, mice, &c., were eagerly bought up, I am satisfied that the information is only too true. With a view to send some relief I have consulted Mr. D. Norowjee and he has agreed to bake ship biscuit at cost price for any one who will send him an order for this charitable purpose, and as I propose to proceed again up the West River about the 10th June I shall only be too pleased to take the biscuits with me and distribute where the most distress is apparent. I consider that biscuit is the very best article of food that could be sent; it is easily carried and does not turn stale. It will sustain a man for several days and allow him to walk into outlying districts where food can be obtained and prevent the risk of his breaking down and dying on the way. All orders for biscuit to be sent direct to Mr. Norowjee's Bakery and I shall gladly acknowledge receipt of all contributions of biscuit or other bread stuffs, tinned meats, &c.

Thanking you for inserting this letter.—
Yours truly,

JOHN ANDREW.

Hongkong, 22nd May, 1896.

CELEBRATION OF THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY AT AMOY.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Although Amoy is a port of importance on the China coast, yet to the stranger it gives the impression of being somewhat quieter than some of the other coast ports in which British capital has been sunk with such success. But beneath the seeming quietness of this little port there is much activity, which must increase by bounds now that Japan has set her seal upon Formosa.

On the evening of the 20th inst. the good people of Amoy threw business cares away and joined the genial Consul, Mr. C. T. Gardiner, in celebrating Her Majesty's birthday by a social evening concert. Mr. Gardiner and Mr. King welcomed each guest, and the visitors were considerably surprised at the artistic way in which Mr. Sullivan—the community's right-hand man in the matter of keeping order—had arranged the flags and other devices, and one would have been æsthetic indeed who criticised his efforts.

The programme was divided into two parts and the first item, the "Gypsy Rondo," by Haydn, was rendered by Mrs. Law, who showed a technique and touch which the audience warmly appreciated and an encore was demanded. In the song "The stone outside Dan Murphy's door," the Hibernian instincts of our friend Mr. Sullivan showed themselves to great advantage and the audience could not refrain from boisterously joining in the chorus. One must not forget the charming way in which Miss McGregor sang the "Rowan Tree" and "The Lost Chord," both of which suited the compass of her voice admirably. Amongst other good things Mr. Clayton's song "I attempt from Love's sickness to fly" appealed to every heart in the company. Purcell's music has a plaintive way of appealing to one, which was accentuated by Mr. Clayton's rendering of this beautiful song.

Mr. Boyd must be thanked for his two songs and to say that the audience appreciated them would be unnecessary. The songs of the Misses Saunders must not be hastily passed over. "In the Chimney Corner" was very finely sung by Miss C. Saunders, who put a naïveté into it which considerably improved the old tune. The last item, a glee, in which the artistes of the evening joined, was ably given and when the National Anthem, sung by the whole com-

pany, was ended, one could not help being proud to be one of those who can claim allegiance to Her Majesty, whose reign has been remarkable above all others; and her representative, in the person of our Consul, worthily keeps up England's prestige in Amoy.

THE RICE EXPORT TRADE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

RESTRICTIVE DUTIES.

The following memorial has been addressed by the Manila Chamber of Commerce to the Secretary of State for the Colonies at Madrid:—

Sir,—The Chamber of Commerce of this capital, in accordance with articles 2 and 4 of the Royal decree of the 19th November, 1886, which established in the colonies official Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Navigation, respectfully represent to your Excellency:—

That by article 6 of the Royal decree of the 5th July, 1895, there was imposed upon the export of rice a duty of \$2 per 100 kilogrammes. As soon as telegraphic notice of this decree was received the Committee of the Chamber sought an interview with the Intendant-General of Customs, when the subject was extensively discussed, and the unanimous opinion was that the said export duty on rice would greatly disturb the producers and consequently cause considerable prejudice to the country. This opinion was shared by the Intendant-General of Customs, who, with his customary zeal, stated that he would, with all possible activity, endeavour to secure the suppression of the said duty.

The Chamber has heard nothing further as to the result of these efforts.

According to the general principles of political economy products should not be charged with export duty, but should be placed upon foreign markets under the most advantageous conditions possible. Rice, being charged with the duty in question, could not be exported to any market, and from this it would necessarily result that its production could never be increased to those respectable proportions which the prosperity and well-being of this country demand in so far as this important branch of agriculture is concerned.

It is true that for a long time rice has not been produced in sufficient quantity to satisfy internal requirements and it has had to be imported from abroad, but the establishment of rice cleaning mills at various points where the production is greatest, which has stimulated the production in greater quantity and of better quality, has resulted in immense advantage to the producers, who formerly had difficulty in selling their paddy at reasonable prices and were obliged to clean it by primitive and laborious means in order to place their rice on the market. The installation of machinery avoids this labour and its ulterior consequences, the owners of the machinery buying the paddy at acceptable prices, and from this results more animation, the extension of the area under cultivation, and greater production. But, while this profitable development was in progress, before the activity of the producers had been carried to its highest pitch, and before the new industry of rice cleaning by modern machinery had recouped itself for the initial expenses incurred in its establishment, appeared the order imposing a duty of \$2 per hundred kilogrammes on rice exported, which has dashed the hopes of those engaged in the industry, who see that the duty will close the ports to the export of rice, a business which should follow the installation of the machinery referred to, which, as will be seen, should promote progress in two directions, one commercial and the other industrial.

Your Excellency will recognise the disappointment and the injury which this Customs decree has occasioned as well to the paddy growers as to the rice cleaners, the effects of which will extend throughout the whole country and directly affect the funds of the State.

The exaction of the export duty referred to is no doubt due to a laudable zeal to provide against a trade in foreign rice not in conformity with the spirit of our national customs laws, namely, sending foreign rice to Cuba as the

product of this country; but it appears impossible that any profit could be made out of foreign rice imported into the Philippines with that object, because before it could be despatched from these islands for Cuba its price would be increased by the import duty, freight, insurance, landing and transport, charges, which would have to be paid in Manila and which would reach a considerable amount, making such a trade very precarious and exposed to loss or very meagre returns.

The trade in home grown rice would be easier and safer, and, even if it be supposed that in certain cases trade might take place in rice from other countries, rice which had to be imported and exported would yield import and tonnage dues. Nevertheless, the fraud practised upon the country of destination by representing foreign rice as the product of this country, contrary to law and to justice, should not be tolerated; but the way to avoid it, without burdening trade with duties and restrictions, is to allow the free export of rice, so that the rice cleaners and growers may receive a powerful stimulus to increase their labours and thus augment the home production, thereby irremediably diminishing the importation of grain and by this means making the country no longer tributary to other countries in this branch of production.

The fact that rice mills have been established in the inland provinces at a distance from Manila is an evident proof that they intend to deal with home grown rice, for if they intended to deal with imported rice they would have to be located in this city.

In view of the above reasons the Chamber of Commerce requests your Excellency that you will move the Government of His Majesty to suppress the Customs duty of \$2 per hundred kilogrammes on rice exported, established by the Royal decree of the 5th July, 1895.

Manila, 24th April, 1896.

COMMERCIAL WAR BY SPAIN ON AMERICA.

The Manila Comercio suggests that in view of the leaning shown by the United States towards the Cuban rebels Spain should make commercial war upon America and that the Philippines should participate in it by abstaining from the purchase and use of American oil and American flour.

The article opens with a eulogistic reference to the placing of merchant steamers at the disposal of the Government for use as armed cruisers, and then proceeds:—But side by side with this must be noted the spontaneity with which at many places in the Peninsula and colonies important Spanish houses engaged in the import trade have cut off their mercantile relations with the United States and countermanded orders already given, notwithstanding the loss they might thereby sustain. In adopting this course they have no official instigation, nor has a war of tariffs been declared, which the Government will only do with caution and in conformity with the national dignity and international law, keeping it in reserve for an opportune moment. But commerce, in its liberty of action, has not emulated the prudent conduct of the Government, but has declared war against the United States. We also, in this the most distant of the Spanish possessions, feel this patriotic impulse and we reject North American products if they come direct from North American ports consigned to Spanish houses. But the trade in these lines, as in the case of many other goods of foreign production, is generally carried on with the free port of Hongkong, by Anglo-Chinese stores and firms, and our mercantile protests will have little effect on Yankee trade. Let us follow our brothers in Europe and America and not rest satisfied until we have proscribed from our stores petroleum from New York and flour from California. If this cannot be accomplished directly at least we may demonstrate, although to the prejudice of our neutral neighbours at Hongkong, that we look with disfavour upon goods bearing American marks of origin. Oil and flour are the principal articles of American production imported. Rather ought we to give the preference to Russian oil, which is the cheaper, rejecting American marks, which are only in favour on

account of old custom; or better still, make the attempt to exploit the oil fields of Bisayas. We might also with advantage favour the importation of Spanish, European, or Asiatic flour, which could compete with American flour from Hongkong.

WENCHOW.

15th May.

The tea season is on and in full swing. The *Poochi* takes up this trip a big cargo. Prices have gone up this year, due chiefly to a greater demand for, therefore appreciation of, the Wenchow products. Exports from Wenchow seem to be increasing generally; the *Poochi* has shut out cargo almost every trip this year to the annoyance of shippers and the delight of junkmen; lorecha and junk traffic has in consequence grown of late.

Now the *Winghong* has stepped in; twice she has gone to Shanghai full up, and there seems every prospect of her continuing to run. The China Merchants are trying to run her off the line by reducing freights and fares. Passengers are now taken for \$2 instead of \$6 as before. Recently when the *Winghong* was unlucky enough to go ashore last trip, a notice was circulated here that she had made her last trip, and freights were at once put up to the old figure. She came in again though last week, and they are once more down again. The foreign community has no objection to six visits a month instead of three, but the *Poochi* is still prime favourite.

Our Taotai is at his old tricks again, baiting the Christians. A young graduate, not a Christian, but an occasional visitor at a missionary's house, is threatened with the loss of his button. His father had a case in the Yohtsing yamen. During its progress report says that a letter was received by the magistrate from the Taotai urging that if any of the family were Christians the magistrate should take the opportunity to severely punish them. The magistrate unable then to get a hold upon them has now raised a couple of flimsy charges, adding as a third that this graduate is a Christian and having intercourse with foreigners, and therefore urges that he be degraded. The attention of the Prefect has been officially drawn to the matter, but he of course denied the third point altogether. Since then another man, a Christian, has had his great-grandfather's grave damaged, and a fortnight ago laid his case before the same magistrate. The magistrate ignored the case, asking instead if he were a Christian. A reply in the affirmative brought forth a torrent of abuse from the magistrate, who ended by saying: "If you recant Christianity I will give you justice; if you don't I will have your button taken off." Not content with this the magistrate has since published his reply to the Christian's petition and ends up by saying: "You, a scholar, ought to spend your time reading the books of your own country's sages; instead of that you have renegaded to Jesus, and are preaching his doctrines, an exceedingly reprehensible thing, in consequence of which you deserve to be degraded from your rank." H.B.M. Consul is, we hear, moving in the matter.—N. C. Daily News correspondent.

HONGKONG.

The number of plague cases for the year yesterday reached 936. Unfortunately another European—Sapper Barr, of the Royal Engineers—has contracted the disease and he was taken to the hospital yesterday. On Thursday the Sanitary Board met and an important discussion took place in reference to Mr. Danby's allegations respecting the carrying out of the Board's regulations concerning plague. On Friday Mr. J. J. Francis addressed a meeting at the City Hall on the subject of the Navy League. On Whit Monday there was a serious affray on the German steamer *Martha* and two coolies were shot by the chief officer during a fight between fifty cargo coolies and the second mate while the vessel was lying in the harbour.

At the Police Court on Saturday five lodging house keepers were charged with overcrowding their premises. Fines varying from \$2 to \$17 were imposed.

M. de Champeaux, agent of the M. M. Company, returned to the colony by the *Oceanien* on Saturday.

H.E. the Governor gave a dance at Government House on the 25th May in celebration of the Queen's Birthday.

The death rate last month was, for the British and foreign community, civil population, 31.0, and for the Chinese community 27.9.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that H.E. the Governor has been pleased to appoint His Honour Dr. Carrington to be a member of the Governing Body of Queen's College in place of the Hon. N. G. Mitchell-Innes.

About six o'clock on Saturday morning a sudden squall of wind which swept across the harbour lifted the awning, stanchions, and the funnel from the steam launch *Shun Wa* and they were blown into the sea. Fortunately no one was hurt.

The monthly carbine competition for the cup presented to the Kowloon Dock detachment of the H.K. Volunteers by Mr. John Wallace was shot for on Saturday, when the cup was won for the first time by Mr. D. Gow with a score of 76, with 21 points added, total 97. Mr. Stewart, scratch, made a good second with 89 points.

At the Police Court on the 20th May a Chinaman was charged with being in possession of firearms on five different occasions without a licence. The defendant pawned the firearms and it is believed that among them were revolvers used in the armed attack at Wanchai, and that he has some knowledge of the robbers. He is a thief himself and Hon. Commander Hastings fined him \$100 or three months' imprisonment.

Information has been received in Hongkong that the three-masted schooner *Mount Lebanon* went ashore off Montanha Island, about ten miles from Macao, on Saturday. The captain sent word that the vessel was fast on sand and a Chinese tug boat was sent on Monday morning to her assistance. It is some considerable time since the *Mount Lebanon* was in Hongkong. She was coming here with a cargo of timber from Ramjang.

The *Singapore Free Press* of the 11th May says:—Mr. J. Napier, formerly in the employ of Messrs. Dakin, Cruickshank & Co., Limited, Hongkong, who arrived in Singapore about ten days ago, died suddenly yesterday morning. The deceased was a chemist by profession, and being out of work went to live with a friend at 52, Hill Street, where he died. He was last seen alive at 10 a.m., being found dead in his bed at one o'clock. An inquest will be held.

The Right Rev. L. M. Piazzoli begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the Home for the Aged and Infirm:—

Already acknowledged	\$2,975
Mr. A. G. Rozario	50
Mr. D. Musso (Italian Consul)	25
Mr. A. de Silveira	25
A Friend	25
Mr. P. M. A. Graca	5
Mr. C. Danenberg	5

As will be seen from our Canton Notes, the rice dealers of that city have determined to accept Chinese subsidiary coins only at a discount. Other trades will no doubt follow suit and the coins will fall below par everywhere. When this movement makes itself generally felt the coins will probably disappear from circulation in Hongkong and the colony's own coins will come into circulation again, as was the case some years ago when the Japanese small coins fell below par and disappeared from our local currency. The wonder is that the Chinese coins have been able to hold the field so long.

We have received a letter from a correspondent complaining that plague ambulances and dead boxes are left on the sidewalk in Old Bailey, near the Police compound, much to the disgust of those who have to pass them. We are afraid our correspondent's complaint will not have much effect. The Government, indeed, seems to take a pleasure in exposing these disagreeable objects to public view. There are generally one or two to be seen in Wyndham Street, under repair, the work being conducted on the sidewalk, thereby causing an obstruction, contrary to the Ordinance in that case, made and provided.

On the 20th May there were 11 cases of plague, on the 21st 4, on the 22nd 14, on the 23rd 7, on the 24th 7, and on the 25th 13.

Two privates in the G Company of the Rifle Brigade, named Thomas Howells and Thomas Freeman, were charged before Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings on the 22nd inst. with stealing about \$10 and a part of a sleeve link from Gustavos Stour. About nine o'clock on Thursday night Detective Sergeant Holt went into the lower bar of the Hongkong Hotel, and noticed that the two soldiers were behaving in rather a suspicious manner. The detective decided to wait in the bar and watch the men and so he ordered a drink and stood up at the counter facing a mirror. By this means he was able to watch the movements of the prisoners without creating suspicion. He saw Howells take money from the waistcoat pockets of Stour, who was helplessly drunk at the time. After robbing the man Howells and Freeman spent some of the money in drinks and Holt at length arrested the two men and put Stour in a chair and sent him to the Police Station. Howells was sent to gaol for three months and Freeman for one month. Stour was fined \$1 for being drunk and incapable.

At the Supreme Court on the 21st May whilst a witness was giving his evidence in the case of arson, a Chinaman in the Court was noticed to be making motions in the direction of the witness box and the same were evidently recognised by the Chinese witness who was giving evidence at the time. The matter was at once brought to the notice of the Court and his Lordship ordered the man to be placed in custody till the Court adjourned for the day, when he would deal with the matter. When the Court rose His Lordship accordingly asked for the man to be brought forward and wished to know if he had anything to say in answer to what had amounted to a grave contempt of Court. The Chinaman replied that he had no intention of intimidating the witness, and was very sorry for what he had done and would leave himself to the mercy of the Court. His Lordship replied that he had had serious thought at the time of doing something more severe, but he would now discharge him and hoped that the fact that he had been guilty of a very serious contempt of Court would be sufficient warning to him.

A smuggling operation of an unusual character has been causing some little commotion amongst the higher grade of officers of the Chinese empire. On the arrival of the steamer *Lyemmoon* at Shanghai on her last trip boxes containing in all 150 repeating rifles were seized amongst the luggage of certain native passengers, and the seven passengers whose luggage was involved were detained and handed over to the native authorities. It turns out that the seven men thus handed over are all military officers of junior grade, that they are all Bannermen or Tartars, that all were on their way to Peking, some on promotion and some to buy higher rank, and, most astounding of all, that one of them was the bearer of a memorial to the Throne from the Tartar General at Canton. It appears that these gentlemen had, as is customary with their class, decided that they ought to utilize their journey by making a profitable commercial speculation and it occurred to them that the most profitable "deal" they could go in for, as giving a good return and ready realisation on investment, was one in arms. Doubtless their military training, knowledge of what was a good or bad weapon, and the present demand for arms all over the Celestial Empire, helped them in their decision. However, whatever the inducement, they invested jointly, in Hongkong, in 150 repeating rifles at \$20 each, making a total investment of \$3,000, and they figured out that they could dispose of these at \$40 each, thus netting the handsome profit of \$3,000 which would add to their means of enjoyment and possibly enable them to purchase higher rank than they would otherwise find possible. Alas! for vain dreams of opulence and rank. The wretched searcher pounced upon their valuable investment and handed over their sacred persons to the oppressor. There was much telegraphing between three or four of the largest cities of the empire, and the unfortunates will doubtless be called upon to disgorge still further or take the consequences.

A case of robbery with violence at Cosmopolitan Dock was reported to the police on Thursday afternoon. Two men went into the quarters of the pumping man at the dock and bound a woman, who was the only occupant of the house, hand and foot and stuffed her mouth with paper and cotton waste. They then took two bangles, mounted in gold, and a gold finger ring from her and decamped. The police were immediately informed and Inspector Butlin and several constables made enquiries and succeeded by three o'clock in ascertaining that the stolen property had been pawned. In the evening a man was arrested by a Chinese detective and he was recognised by the pawnbroker as the man who disposed of the property, but the woman said he was not one of the men who had robbed her. The man was charged with unlawful possession of stolen property and at the Police Court on Saturday was remanded for further inquiries to be made. The woman can identify the robbers.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Colonial Government	\$300
On Tai Insurance Co., Ltd.	100
Aberdeen Paper Mills Co.	50
Skött and Co.	50
W. G. Humphreys and Co.	25
Gibb, Livingston and Co.	25
Chai On Marine Insurance Co., Ltd.	25
T. Jackson	25
Wing Kee and Co.	25
W. D. Graham	20
Wei Yuk	20
H. M. Hillier	10
Ho A Mei	10
Tse Yat	10
J. Kennedy	10
Sr. Don José de Navarro	10
Hon. R. Murray Rumsey	10
Ed. Osborne	10
H. Fazulally and Co.	10
H. F. Meyerink	10
Bismarck and Co.	10
J. B. Cousins	10
A. M. Essabhoy	10
Liao Tze San	10
A. J. do Rozario	10
J. A. Clarke	5
Cottam and Co.	5
Fung Tang	5
Hon. A. M. Thomson	5
W. Brewer and Co.	5
A. S. Cohen	5
A. Denison	5
T. Meek	5
G. L. Tomlin	5
Paul Brewitt	5
F. D. Goddard	5
Chas. T. Kew	5
H. E. Bottlewalla	3
C. A. Camroodip	3
C. Ookerjee and Co.	2
S. D. Moonshee	2
J. G.	2
M. H. Katrak	2
F. Jamsetjee	1
E. Elias and Co.	1

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

A soldier named Luk Aming, who had asked leave to return to his native home in Samsui, saw a woman with a parcel of clothes in her hand walking along a street. He snatched the parcel from the woman and ran away with it. The woman cried out loudly and the soldier-thief was consequently arrested and handed over to a petty officer, who held him in custody. When the case was made known to Colonel Cheng Yun-tsoi, son of late Admiral Cheng-shao Chung, the thief was at once brought up for trial, and the charge being proved, sentence of death was passed. The prisoner was taken to Tin-chi-ma-tau for decapitation on the 19th inst.

Owing to the depreciation in value of the Chinese subsidiary coins the rice merchants have made a rule that every ten cent piece is to be counted for 7.1 candareens instead of 7.2 candareens.

Telegraphic information has been received from Peking to the effect that the office of Admiral of Canton has been conferred on H.E. Ho Chang-ching, who is Commandant-in-Chief of

Wan-yang district, in Hupeh, and nephew of Ho King, Viceroy of Fukien during the Franco-Chinese war. About ten years ago his Excellency was colonel of Kowloon.

A few days ago a notorious robber named Chan Shing was arrested by a military officer in Honam. He was sent to Canton and was tried in the Military Court. When he was brought up for trial, he refused to kneel down, but was forced to do so by hard flogging. He then addressed the Court calmly and said that he formerly joined with Ta Pau-lung and Li Man to commit grave robberies, kidnap girls, and capture rich persons for ransom, but after Ta Pau-lung and Li Man had been arrested and beheaded, he was the head, and many robberies were committed under his command. Last year he joined with Soon Mun, the head of the attempted insurrection in Canton last year, who paid him a good deal of money to get men for the purpose. He had hired for him over one thousand men and they were scattered all over Canton in readiness for the proposed revolution. He was then told that if he would give information leading to the capture of Soon Mun he would be released. In reply he said he had heard that Soon Mun had gone to some foreign country under the disguise of a foreigner and that it would be exceedingly hard to effect his arrest. He was again asked concerning several small robberies, whether they were committed by him or not. He said loudly that he never committed such small robberies.

Several days ago the lekin station at Chan Chuen was robbed by a gang of thieves, who broke into the house and tied up the inmates. They carried away with them everything of value. The case has been reported to the Viceroy, who demands the immediate arrest of the culprits.

On the 20th instant a trader who carried several pieces of silk on his shoulder for sale was attacked by several robbers when he was walking along a street named Kun-yam-kui. The robbers sprang forward and snatched his silk from him and ran away. The trader gave chase, but the robbers fired at him, and the trader, who was struck by one shot, fell to the ground. At last some policemen appeared and one robber was arrested.

Governor Wong Wai-sum left Canton for Yunnan to take up his new appointment on the 22nd instant. It is said that his Excellency will travel by land instead of going by steamer to Rangoon as last reported.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The C. M. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Toonan*, Captain Mertens, which arrived at Shanghai on the 20th May, reported picking up, off Tungsha Lightship, the crew of pilot boat No. 3, the *Syren*, which had been run down by the steamer *Flintshire* the same morning. Pilot Bull, we (*Mercury*) understand, was on board at the time of the accident, and he had just left the *Flintshire*, having piloted her out, when the accident happened.

The *Mercury* has the following note on a new enterprise projected at Shanghai:—We hear that the lease of the Central Hotel block has been acquired by a syndicate on behalf of the Central Stores, Limited, a company now being formed for trading in all kinds of goods on a similar basis to the Army and Navy and Civil Service Stores in London. It is proposed to carry on the hotel business in conjunction therewith, but on an extended scale.

On Sunday morning, 17th May, the French authorities at Shanghai, with Commander Maudet of the French gunboat *Comète* and a party of Marines, all in full uniform, paid a tribute to the statue of Admiral Protet, to honour the thirty-fourth anniversary of the death of the Admiral, he being killed on the 17th May, 1862, when fighting with the Chinese troops against the Taiping rebellion when Shanghai and Pootung were infested. Admiral Protet met his death at a place called Nan-chiao-cheng in Pootung, where he is to be officially worshipped, by Imperial command, twice a year, in the spring and autumn, in the same way that any great distinguished and loyal Chinese statesman is after his death. We mention this as it is not generally known amongst foreigners.—*Mercury*.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 18th May.—Business reported since the 11th inst. is as under:—

Settlements ... 69,786 1/2-chts. 226,979 1/2-chts.
Consisting of the following Teas, cost in London being calculated at 3/2 per tael Exchange, and 47/6 per ton Freight.

	1896.	1895.
Ningchows	18,269 1/2-chts. at Tls. 20.00 to 23.00	
Khemuns	30,011 " " 24.00 to 23.00	
Ho-hows	2,558 " " 16.00 to 18.00	
Oopacks	17,948 " " 26.00 to 40.00	
Oonams	745 " " 29.00 to 37.00	
Seang-tams	255 " " 23.00 to —	

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding number of days from the opening of last season, viz., 9 days.

	1896.	1895.
Hankow Tea		
Settlements	19,072 1/2-chts.	196,132 1/2-chts.
Stock	101,443 "	129,763 "

Arrivals	120,515 "	325,895 "
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	1896.	1895.
Kiukiang Tea.		
Settlements	56,021 1/2-chts.	79,027 1/2-chts.
Stock	80,687 "	79,716 "

Arrivals	136,708 "	137,743 "
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The entire business to date as compared with the corresponding number of days from the opening of last season, viz., 9 days.

	1896.	1895.
For London and		
America	24,000 1/2-chts.	40,000 1/2-chts.
For Russia	51,093 "	234,159 "
	75,093 "	274,159 "

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	249,459	1,001,127
Kobe	35,163	156,540
	284,622	1,157,667

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 21st May.—(From Mr. A. R. Burkill's circular).—London advices to 19th current quote a dull market; Gold Kiling 7/10 1/2, Blue Elephants 10/-. Raw Silk.—Actual purchases are on a very small scale and prices are irregular. Attention is now directed almost entirely to crop prospects. The weather continues extremely propitious and with very few exceptions accounts from the country agree as to a favourable outturn. The season is rather late, but the education of the worms has been unchecked so far and the critical period is past in most districts. Arrivals.—As per Customs Returns, May 14th to 20th, 47 bales White, 15 piculs Yellow, and 287 piculs Wild Silks. Waste Silk.—I hear of no transactions of importance. Pongees.—In White Cloth some contracts have been made 21/22 in. by 70 yds. at Tls. 13 1/2 to 1 1/2 according to quality and dressing.

Purchases include:—Tsattees.—Gold Lion at Tls. 345 per picul, Yaonlay Seeling at Tls. 310. Yellow Silk.—Mienchow at Tls. 232 1/2. Re-sel.—Market Crop at Tls. 310. Wild Silk.—Tussah Raw 3 at Tls. 170.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1895-96	1894-95
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	56,460	50,075
Canton	19,039	15,754
Yokohama	23,189	20,679
	99,068	86,508

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	bales.	bales.
Canton	9,387	8,793
Shanghai	10,069	9,662
Yokohama	28,592	27,430
	48,048	45,885

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 26th May.—Large supplies have come to hand and a decline of \$5 per picul has taken place. Quotations for Formosa are \$14.50 to \$45.00. During the past week sales have been 100 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 26th May.—The market has improved a little and prices are slightly firmer. Following are the quotations:—
 Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.14 to 7.17 per cwt.
 do. " 2, White... 6.52 to 6.54 "
 Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.48 to 4.50 "
 do. " 2, Brown... 4.30 to 4.32 "
 Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.05 to 7.07 "
 do. " 2, White... 6.40 to 6.42 "
 Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 4.38 to 4.40 "
 do. " 2, Brown... 4.23 to 4.26 "
 Soochow Sugar Candy... 10.82 to 10.85 "
 Shekloong " 9.27 to 9.30 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The German steamer *Irene*, Hongkong to Havre, 7th May, took:—5 cases Human Hair, 2 cases China Ink, 1,027 rolls Matting, 199 bales Canes, 51 cases Bristles, 100 bales Split Bamboos, 300 boxes Tea, 20 cases Blackwoodware, and 72 cases Chinaware; for Havre option Hamburg:—21 cases Blackwoodware, 34 cases Chinaware, and 10 cases Lanterns; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—180 cases Bristles, 1,927 cases Camphor, 100 cases Canes, 60 cases Gallnuts, 250 cases Cassia Lignea, 1 box China Ink, 1 roll Matting, and 1 package Crackers; for Havre option Hamburg option London option Antwerp:—200 bales Feathers, 1 case Bristles, and 70 cases Teasticks; for Havre option London:—109 cases Camphor; for Hamburg:—106 rolls Matting, 371 packages Fire Crackers, 117 packages Rattan Shavings, 1,000 cases Cassia, 250 cases Cassia Buds, 110 cases Camphor, 395 bales Canes, 20 cases Fans, 42 cases Chinaware, 2 cases Feathers, 70 packages Rattancore, 6 cases China Ink, 1 case Silk, 7 packages Tea, 145 cases Safety Cartridges, and 115 packages Merchandise; for Hamburg option London:—20 cases Bristles; for London: 50 bales Canes; for Lisbon:—18 packages China and Japanware.

The American ship *Tam O'Shanter*, Hongkong to New York, 13th May, took:—13,860 packages Tea, 9,063 packages Fire Crackers, 4,440 rolls Matting, 2,500 bales Broken Cassia, 805 packages Rattancore, 531 bales Strawbraid, 500 cases Fans, 150 cases Soy, 55 packages Preserves, 46 boxes Essential Oil, 30 cases Cassia, 7 cases Blackwoodware, and 511 packages Merchandise.

The steamship *Cowrie*, Hongkong to Antwerp, 14th May, took:—208 bales Split Bamboos; for London option Hamburg:—35 bales Feathers; for New York:—18 bales Merchandise; for London:—6 cases Lanterns, 10 cases Blackwoodware, 25 cases Bristles, 45 cases Camphor, 300 rolls Mats, 975 packages Cannon Crackers, and 1,332 packages Fire Crackers; for Hamburg:—10 cases Cassia Buds, 55 cases Bristles, 113 cases Camphor, 121 bales Raw Rattans, 166 bales Galangal, 307 bales Canes, and 395 bales Feathers.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 26th May.—Bengal.—There has not been much doing in the interval and prices have kept stationary, closing figures being \$680 for New Patna, \$725 for Old Patna, \$682½ for New Benares, and \$745 for Old Benares.

Malwa.—The market continues unchanged. A small business has passed in the interval at rates which show no alteration on previous figures. Latest quotations are as under:—

New \$750 with all'ance of 1 to 3½ cts.
 Old (2½ yrs.) \$760 " 0 to 1½ "
 " \$780 " ½ to 2½ "

Persian.—There has been a small decline in Paper-wrapped drug. Oily descriptions are unaltered in value. Current figures are \$600 to \$645 for the former and \$580 to \$610 for the latter according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna 2,000 chests
 Old Patna 500 "
 New Benares 320 "
 Old Benares 89 "
 Malwa 300 "
 Persian 1,300 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
May 21	682½	726½	685	750	750	760/780
May 22	681½	726½	683½	745	750	760/780
May 23	681½	726½	683½	745	750	760/780
May 24	681½	726½	683½	745	750	760/780
May 25	680	725	682½	745	750	760/780
May 26	680	725	682½	745	750	760/780

RICE.

HONGKONG, 26th May.—Prices again show an advance. Closing quotations are:—

per picul.
 Saigon, Ordinary \$2.34 to 2.36
 " Round, good quality 2.65 to 2.68
 " Long 2.76 to 2.78
 Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ... 2.62 to 2.65
 " Garden, " No. 1 ... 2.84 to 2.86
 " White 3.12 to 3.16
 " Fine Cargo 3.33 to 3.36

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 26th May.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn*.—25 bales No. 6 at \$65, 50 bales No. 8 at \$65.50, 615 bales No. 10 at \$72.50 to \$78, 260 bales No. 12 at \$72.50 to \$74, 260 bales No. 16 at \$85 to \$91, 785 bales No. 20 at \$88.50 to \$91. *Grey Shirtings*.—1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Stag at \$3.75, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Flower Vase at \$3.77½, 900 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.44, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 7 Boys at \$3.25, 2,000 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Dragon at \$3.75, 1,800 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 5 Men at \$2.47½, 750 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Palm at \$3.60. *T-Cloths*.—300 pieces 8 lbs. Mexican X. M. at \$2.25, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Blue Dragon B. B. at \$2.25, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Gold Dragon at \$2.25. *Drills*.—200 pieces 14 lbs. Old Man and Tiger at \$3.49, *Spanish Stripes*.—24 pieces Indigo S. and G. at \$1.40.

Metals:—Iron.—110 kegs Wire Nails at \$4.10. Lead.—200 tons Australia at \$6.50. Tin.—200 slabs Foongchai at \$33.

COTTON YARN.

per bale
 Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20 \$64.00 to \$61.60
 English—Nos. 16 to 24 104.00 to 108.00
 " 22 to 24 109.00 to 112.00
 " 28 to 32 114.00 to 119.00
 " 33 to 42 124.00 to 131.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

per piece
 Grey Shirtings—6½ lbs. 1.40 to 1.55
 7½ lbs. 1.85 to 2.05
 8½ lbs. 2.20 to 3.10
 9 to 10 lbs. 3.20 to 4.00
 White Shirtings—5½ to 56 rd. 2.30 to 2.50
 58 to 60 " 2.65 to 3.25
 64 to 66 " 3.30 to 3.75
 Fine 4.05 to 6.90
 Book-folds. 3.20 to 5.40
 Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.60 to 1.25
 T-Cloths—6½ lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y. 1.40 to 1.55
 7½ lbs. (32 ") " 1.80 to 2.95
 6½ lbs. (32 ") Mex. 1.60 to 1.75
 7½ lbs. (32 ") " 2.15 to 2.40
 8 to 8½ lbs. (36 in.) 2.35 to 3.05
 Drills, English—40 yds, 13½ to 14½ lbs. 3.20 to 4.30

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5½ lbs. 1.30 to 3.50

Brocades—Dyed 3.75 to 4.50

per yard
 Damasks 0.12 to 0.15
 Chintzes—Assorted 0.07 to 0.10
 Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.21 to 0.28
 Velvetcens—18 in. 0.16 to 0.20

per dozen
 Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.40 to 0.85

WOOLLENS

per yard
 Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.60 to 0.95
 German 1.00 to 1.15
 Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. 1.25 to 3.50

per piece
 Long Ells—Scarlet 6.90 to 8.00
 Assorted 7.00 to 8.10
 Camlets—Assorted 13.00 to 27.00
 Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted } 10.00 to 15.00

per pair
 Orleans—Plain 3.00 to 3.60
 Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 4.20 to 4.80

METALS

per picul
 Iron—Nail Rod 3.05 to —
 Square, Flat Round Bar ... 3.00 to 3.05
 Swedish Bar 4.75 to 4.80
 Small Round Rod 3.55 to —
 Hoop 4.50 to —
 Old Wire Rope 3.00 to —
 Lead, Australian 6.65 to —
 per case
 Yellow Metal—Muntz, 14/28 oz. 25.25 to —
 Vivian's, 16/32 oz. 25.00 to —
 Elliot's, 16/28 oz. 25.00 to —

Japan Copper, Slabs 24.75 to —
 Tin 35.50 to 35.75
 per box
 Tin-Plates 5.00 to —
 per cwt. case
 Steel 4.25 to —

SUNDRIES

per picul
 Quicksilver 109.75 to —
 per box
 Window Glass 3.30 to —
 per 10-gal. case
 Kerosene Oil 2.07 to —

SHANGHAI, 22nd May.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade report.)—Buying has continued during the week on a heavy scale and the aggregate has amounted to some thousands of bales, but it is difficult to tell exactly what has been done, as sales have been reported irregularly, both buyers and sellers very naturally preferring to keep particulars to themselves. Tientsin dealers have been the principal buyers, and attention has chiefly been paid to 8½-lb. Grey Shirtings, English and American Sheetings and 64-reel White Shirtings, but at the same time there has been some welcome enquiry for English Drills. A few good lines of Prints have been sold for Szechuen and Tientsin, but Dyed and other Fancy Goods are quiet and difficult to move. Clearances of the goods that are wanted have been good, and would have been a great deal better generally had not dealers been hampered by the excessively high interest charged by the Native Banks, but as the rate has recently been reduced to a moderate level a better state of things may reasonably be looked for. News from the outports continue favourable; those from Tientsin as stated above being good, but the Hankow dealers appear to have withheld their orders rather too long and allowed the Northern dealers to have their full share of importers' attention during the week. This may account for the apparent neglected state of 10 lbs. and 12 lbs. Grey Shirtings, orders for both of which are, we believe, in the hands of the River dealers. Chefoo continues quiet and demand from Ningpo is rather easier. The American markets would appear to be stronger again as business has been refused on the basis of last prices, while Manchester is reported steady. Cotton is quoted 4½d.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's report.)—22nd May.—Metals.—Quite an absence of business, excepting a reported sale of 400 tons of Pig Iron No. 3 at 60/-c.i.f. and at Auction 100 piculs Old Wire at Tls. 1.40, 400 piculs Plate Cuttings at Tls. 1, 200 piculs Iron Wire at Tls. 1.22½, 100 piculs Cart Tyres at Tls. 1.77½, 100 piculs Hoop Cuttings at Tls. 1.10, 150 piculs Old Bar Iron at Tls. 1.97½, 200 piculs Tool Steel (New) at Tls. 3.80, 1,200 piculs Bar Iron, assorted, at Tls. 2.75 to Tls. 3.00.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS

TUESDAY, 26th May.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—
 Telegraphic Transfer 2/24
 Bank Bills, on demand 2/24
 Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 2/24
 Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 2/24
 Credits, at 4 months' sight 2/24
 Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/24
 ON PARIS.—
 Bank Bills, on demand 2.75
 Credits, at 4 months' sight 2.80
 ON GERMANY.—
 On demand 2.23
 ON NEW YORK.—
 Bank Bills, on demand 53½
 Credits, 60 days' sight 54½
 ON BOMBAY.—
 Telegraphic Transfer 188½
 Bank, on demand 189
 ON CALCUTTA.—
 Telegraphic Transfer 188½
 Bank, on demand 189
 ON SHANGHAI.—
 Bank, at sight 71½
 Private, 30 days' sight 72½
 ON YOKOHAMA.—
 On demand 1½ % p m

ON MANILA.—
On demand.....16½ % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—
On demand.....1½ % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate8.97.
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael46.60

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 26 h May.—Business continues slack and the market quiet, but rates have ruled and close steady.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands in small lots at 185 per cent. prem. for cash, and close steady at that rate. Nationals and Bank of Chinas continue neglected.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have found further buyers at \$79½, and close with small buyers at that rate. Unions after further sales at \$222½ have just been negotiated at \$225, closing firm. North-Chinas continue unchanged on this market, but are quoted firmer in Shanghai with sales at Tls. 205. Cantons are still neglected at \$200. Straits have changed hands at \$28½ and small lots would find buyers at ½ higher.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs and Chinas have been negotiated at quotations, closing steady.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have ruled quiet to neglected at \$34 with unimportant sales. Indo-Chinas, with telegraphic news of the decision to pay an eight per cent. dividend and to write off and carry forward more than last year, quickly jumped to \$70 cash, after sales at \$68 and \$69, and at \$69 and \$70 for August, at time of writing small sales are reported at \$70½, but more shares are obtainable at the rate, and shares are obtainable at \$71 to \$71½ for June. China and Manilas have been done at \$67½ and close firm. Douglasses have further improved their position to \$58 with sales and buyers, after small transactions at \$56 and \$57. China Mutuels are again neglected with sellers at quotations.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have changed hands at \$117 and \$116 cash and at \$118½ for August, Shanghai being the chief purchaser. Luzons could be placed at \$60 to \$61, but sellers refuse to part at these low rates.

MINING.—As usual between crushings, Punjoms have ruled quiet, and we have only unimportant sales at \$15½ and \$15¾ to report. A small lot changed hands at \$116. Preferences continue steady to strong at \$3.90. Balmorals have ruled firmer and have been enquired for at \$2½, the enquiry resulting in only a small business at that rate. Negotiations for the sale of the property have been again entered upon in conjunction with offers for Olivers Freeholds from London. Jebebus are somewhat steadier at \$2.80 with buyers. Raubs have ruled steady at \$5.50, closing firm at that rate ex div. of 6d.—22½ cents per share (ex 2s. 2½d.), paid here to-day by warrants received from Singapore. Olivers have been enquired for at quotations without finding sellers.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled firm without much business at 183 to 184 per cent. prem. cash, and shares have changed hands at 192 and 193 per cent. prem. for August; market closes steady. Kowloon Wharves, after further sales at \$46½, have changed hands at \$47, and close with buyers at the latter rate. Godowns continue neglected with no business to report.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been negotiated at \$71½, and a sale is reported at \$71; at latter rate shares are in demand, but at former a few are on offer. Hotels have continued in good demand, rates gradually rising to \$35, after sales at \$33½, \$34, and \$34½; market closes strong. West Points continue neglected. Humphreys Estates have changed hands in small lots at \$9½, and more are obtainable at the rate.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have found buyers at \$15; and more are wanted at the rate without finding sellers. Watsons have been negotiated at \$12.75 ex dividend, and close steady. Electrics, after further sales at \$6.85, close with no buyers over \$6.75. Ropes are

reported at \$119 with sales and buyers. Fenwicks have improved to \$25½, after sales at \$24½ and \$25, and are in demand at \$25½. Ices have been negotiated in small lots at \$108.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[\$356.25, s. & b.
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	185 p. ct. prem.==
China & Japan, pref.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary	£1 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$30, sellers
Founders Shares	£1	\$115, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	15s.	\$7, sellers
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	\$5½, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$5
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$8
China Sugar	\$100	\$110, sales
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$0.50 sales
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$5
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$25½ sales & buyers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$15, sales & buyers
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$8	\$6.75, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$95
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$35, sales & buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$103
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$47, sales & buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$119, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	184 p. ct. prem.==
Insurances—		[\$355, sal. & b.
Canton	\$50	\$200, sellers
China Fire	\$50	\$93½, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$79½, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335, sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 200 buyers
Straits	\$20	\$28½, sales & buyers
Union	\$25	\$225, sales & buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$147½, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$71, sales & buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9.25, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$19, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$18, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$61, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$72½
Jebebu	\$5	\$2.80, buyers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$2½, buyers
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$8, buyers
Do. B.	\$2½	\$3½, buyers
Punjoni	\$4	\$15½, sales & buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$3.90 sales & buyers
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$5.50, ex. div. sel.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$67½, buyers
China Mutual Ord.	£5	£7.10 sellers
Do. Preference	£10	£8 10, sales & sellers
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$58, sales & buyers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$34, sales & buyers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$70½, sales & sellers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$40, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12.75 ex. div.

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 21th May.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Cash shares were placed on the 16th at 185 per cent. premium. On the 20th shares were purchased from Hongkong at 186 per cent. premium, for delivery on 30th June. National Bank of China, and Bank of China and Japan.—Nothing doing in either stock. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares have been dealt in to a considerable extent at Tls. 48 to Tls. 48½ cash, Tls. 48½ and Tls. 49 for May, and Tls. 50½ and \$70 from Hongkong, for 31st August. China Mutual S. N. Co. Preference shares have changed hands in Hongkong at £8.50 to £8.10.0, closing with buyers at £8.5.0. Ordinary share are offering. A sale of Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat shares, to Hongkong, at \$34 is reported from Hongkong. Douglas Steamship shares have advanced there to \$56, at which shares changed hands. Docks.—Several transactions are reported in S. C. Furnham & Co. shares at Tls. 205 cash and Tls. 207½ for 30th June. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock shares are quoted in Hongkong 182 per cent. premium, with buyers. Marine Insurance.—North Chinas have been sold, and are offering, at Tls. 205. Yangtze Insurance shares are weak with sellers at \$147½. Straits have been placed at \$28½ cash, \$29½ for May, \$29½ for July and \$32 for December. Fire Insurance. No business is reported on our market, in the absence of buyers. Wharfs.—Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf shares have been sold at Tls. 126, and Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown shares were placed to Hongkong at \$46. Sugars.—Perak

Sugar Refining shares changed hands at Tls. 45½ to Tls. 46 cash, and Tls. 47½ for July. China Sugar Refining shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$120 for July, \$122 for August, and \$126 for October. Luzons are wanted in Hongkong at \$60. There are local sellers at \$62. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were sold at Tls. 60 and Tls. 82 for Tls. 80 and fully paid up shares respectively. Hongkong Land Investment shares are wanted in Hongkong at \$71½. Humphreys Estate and Finance shares are enquired for at \$9.40. Industrial.—Major Brothers shares have changed hands at Tls. 42. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares have found purchasers at Tls. 257½ and Tls. 256. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 129 cash, at which they are offering, and Tls. 125 for 15th July. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares have been sold at irregular prices, Tls. 475 to Tls. 550 for cash, Tls. 575 for 31st May, Tls. 675 for 31st July, and Tls. 600 and Tls. 700 for 31st August. Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares were sold at Tls. 66, and Hall & Holtz shares at \$34 cash and \$36½ for August.

Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—\$355.
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$30.
National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$115.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, pref. shares.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, ordinary shares.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, deferred shares.—£2.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 50.
China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. pref. shares.—£8.50.
China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. ord. shares.—£3 1s. 6d.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$33½.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$53½.
Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 205.
S. C. Farham & Co.—Tls. 205.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$347.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$79½.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 205.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$216.
Yangtze Inscr. Assocn., Ltd.—\$147½.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$207.
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$28½.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$325.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$91½.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 126.
Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 55.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$47.
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 2½.
Punjoni Mining Co., Ltd.—\$15½.
Punjoni Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$3½.
Jebebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$3.
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$5½.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 197½.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 115.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 200.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 185.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 46.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$115.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$62.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (fully paid).—Tls. 82.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (\$30 paid).—Tls. 82.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$71.
Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$19½.
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$9.40.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 42.
Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 95.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 72½.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.—Tls. 100.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 300.
Shanghai Ice Company.—Tls. 130.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 260.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 256.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 120.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 550.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 10,000.
Shanghai Hors. Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 66.
J. Jewell & Co., Limited.—\$70.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$34.
A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$12½.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$8.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$7.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 22nd May (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—We have nothing of particular interest to report in connection with our freight market homewards, and as regards New York the rates for the renewed Conference season have not as yet been disclosed, but it is almost certain that the existing agreement will be continued. From Hankow we shall not hear of any definite news till about the 25th instant, as the London steamer is not expected to be ready for tea much before that date, and no rate of freight has so far been quoted. Homeward rates are:—London by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 40s.; Northern Continental ports, general cargo 37s. 6d.; waste silk 40s.; tea 40s.; New York, general cargo 40s.; tea 40s.; New York via London, general cargo 40s.; tea 45s.; Boston, general cargo 45s.; tea 50s.; Philadelphia, general cargo 45s.; tea 50s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London by Shell Line, general cargo 35s. less 10 per cent.; Hamburg, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; New York, general cargo 40s. less 10 per cent. Havre direct, general cargo 37s. 6d. net; Genoa, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 35s. net; Marseilles, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 35s. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York by sail, 20s. nominal; New York by Pacific Lines, little doing. Coast rates are:—Mojito to Shanghai \$1.20 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.20 per ton coal. Disengaged vessels in port.—*Paul Revere*, American ship, 1,657 tons register; *Topgallant*, American barque, 1,166 tons register; *Eclipse*, American ship, 1,496 tons register; *King Cyrus*, American schooner, 667 tons register; *Alex. McNeill*, American barque, 1,349 tons register; *Katie Flickinger*, American schooner, 425 tons register.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Ceylon* (str.), *Telamon* (str.), *Manila* (str.), *Mirzapore* (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—*Agapanthus* (str.), *Deike Rickmers* (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Gaelic* (str.), *City of Peking* (str.).
For VICTORIA.—*Braemar* (str.).
For NEW YORK.—*Gerard C. Tobey*, *Lucy A. Nickels*, *Benalder* (str.), *T. F. Oakes*, *Lucile*.
For AUSTRALIA.—*Taiyuan* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

May—ARRIVALS.
21, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
21, Choysang, British str., from Canton.
21, Guthrie, British str., from Sydney.
21, Progress, German str., from Quinhon.
21, Strathallan, British str., from Hongay.
21, Tsinan, British str., from Sydney.
21, Picciola, German str., from Newchwang.
22, Knight of St. John, Brit. str., from Kobe.
22, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
22, Peiyang, German str., from Canton.
22, Albingia, German str., from Amoy.
22, Com. T. H. Allen, Amr. sh., from N. York.
22, Martha, German str., from Saigon.
22, Pakling, British str., from Liverpool.
22, Mount Lebanon, Brit. str., from Portland.
23, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
23, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
23, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
23, Suisang, British str., from Singapore.
23, Oceanien, French str., from Marseilles.
23, Canton, British str., from Shanghai.
23, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
23, Petrarch, German str., from Saigon.
23, Clam, British str., from Shanghai.
23, Britannic, Norw. str., from Samarang.
23, St. Louis, French str., from Chefoo.
23, Taicheong, German str., from Aroe Bay.
24, Chingping, Chinese str., from Tientsin.
24, Mathilde, German str., from Pakhoi.
24, Nanchang, British str., from Canton.
24, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
24, Karlsruhe, German str., from Shanghai.
24, Hohenzollern, German str., from Yhama.
24, Columbus, German ship, from New York.
24, Elise, Norw. str., from Rajang.
24, Troop, British ship, from New York.
25, Kristina Nilsson, Ger. bg., from Bangkok.
25, Kong Alf, Norw. str., from Amoy.
25, Bittern, British 3-m. sch., from Albany.
25, P. C. C. Klao, British str., from Bangkok.
25, Pingching, Chinese cr., from Shanghai.
25, Bengo, Portuguese g-bt., from Macao.

25, Harland, British ship, from New York.
25, Victoria, Swedish str., from Penang.
25, Pectan, British str., from Novorossisk.
26, Sydney, French str., from Shanghai.
26, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
26, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
26, Picciola, German str., from Canton.
26, Inverlay, British str., from Canton.
26, Kwongsang, British str., from N'ohwang.
26, Wongkoi, British str., from Bangkok.
26, Ulysses, British str., from Shanghai.
26, Strathleven, British str., from Tacoma.

May—

DEPARTURES.

21, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
21, Porpoise, British cr., for Singapore.
21, City of Rio de Janeiro, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
21, Ravenna, British str., for Europe.
21, Catherine Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
21, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
21, Lyeemoo, German str., for Shanghai.
21, Strathesk, British str., for Takau.
22, Wuotan, German str., for Saigon.
22, Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
22, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
22, Cheang Hock Kian, Brit. str., for Amoy.
22, Carmarthenshire, Brit. str., for Nagasaki.
22, Choysang, British str., for Swatow.
22, Picciola, German str., for Canton.
22, Siam, British str., for Swatow.
22, Sultan, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
22, Verona, British str., for Yokohama.
23, Marie Jebens, German str., for Amoy.
23, Afghan, British str., for Moji.
23, Tsinan, British str., for Shanghai.
23, Bonnington, British str., for Nagasaki.
23, Oceanien, French str., for Shanghai.
23, Sungkiang, British str., for Amoy.
24, Canton, British str., for Canton.
24, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
24, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
24, Knight of St. John, Brit. str., for S'pore.
24, Machew, British str., for Swatow.
24, Mongkut, British str., for Bangkok.
25, Queen Elizabeth, British sh., for S. F'cisco.
25, Benlawers, British str., for Saigon.
25, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
25, Guthrie, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Pakling, British str., for Amoy.
25, Taiyuan, British str., for Australia.
26, Hailoong, British str., for Tamsui.
26, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
26, Karlsruhe, German str., for Europe.
26, Nanchang, British str., for Tientsin.
26, Peiyang, German str., for Shanghai.
26, Propontis, British str., for Singapore.
26, Victoria, Swedish str., for Amoy.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Sungkiang*, str., from Manila.—Mr. Coney, Mr. and Mrs. McCleod and 5 children.
Per *Machew*, str., from Bangkok.—Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick.
Per *Taiyuan*, str., from Yokohama, &c.—Capt. Smith, Messrs. Courbourn, Nielson, Slimon, and Tucker.
Per *Tsinan*, str., from Sydney.—Mrs. Arnold and 2 children, Mrs. Vosteen and child, Messrs. Bayley, McIntosh, Stableforth, and Allesian.
Per *Guthrie*, str., from Sydney, &c.—Mrs. S. G. Green, Misses Reynard and Scott, Messrs. Collins, Jacob Lew, Ross, and Aiken and Dr. Ling.
Per *Haitan*, str., from Coast Ports.—Mr. and Mrs. Cass, Capt. F. Ashton and Sachse, Messrs. Stephens and J. Figueiredo.
Per *Canton*, str., from Shanghai &c.—Mr. Gubbins.
Per *Sui Sang*, str., from Singapore.—Col. and Mrs. Featherstonhaugh, and 600 Chinese.
Per *Zafiro*, str., from Manila.—Capt. and Mrs. Bray and daughter, Messrs. H. Humphreys and M. N. Espanol, Mr. and Mrs. H. Renlea.
Per *Oceanien*, str., for Hongkong from Marseilles, &c.—Messrs. MacVicar, Champeaux, Horsey, Foreman, Le Joucour, Solivères, Backel, Hozée, Seymour, Simon, Nicolas, Gloux, Feraud, Jacob, MacBain, Cumming, Arraaton, Chaniard, Jonas, and Baltz, Rev. Keith, Mr. and Mrs. Flayelle, Mr. and Mrs. Bulow, Mr. and Mrs. Cohn, Mr. and Mrs. Mertens, Mr. and Mrs. Descours, Mrs. Bernard, Capt. Wals, Venning, Bonnet, Delbourgo, Major Lambston, General Jones Vaughan, and Miss Savy.

Per *Karlsruhe*, str., from Shanghai.—Messrs. L. Bennett, M. Larken, A. Neubourg, Zobel, Goebel, Beck, Mielenhausen, Oessing, S. Bowness, and E. Lavey, Mr. and Mrs. B. Hart, Mrs. Kierulff, and Capt. Vardin.

Per *Hohenzollern*, str., from Yokohama, &c.—Messrs. Cumming, Kershaw, Winchester, and Hendelmann, Capt. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Clerk, Mr. and Mrs. Keats, Mr. and Mrs. Komor, Mr. and Mrs. Townley, Mr. and Mrs. Worth, Miss Brownlow, Engineers Morgenstern, Hoff, Niepage, Schaedla, Nau, and Hartig.

Per *P. C. C. Klao*, str., from Bangkok—Messrs. Luds and Mitchelson.

DEPARTED.

Per *Empress of Japan*, str., for Nagasaki—Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. and Miss Hancock, Mrs. N. Morishita, Mrs. K. Kumoshita, Messrs. Lach, A. Hancock, K. Kawage, and H. Kusakabe. For Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Wrottesley, Major and Mrs. Pemberton, Mrs. A. P. Welman and child, Mr. and Mrs. C. Palmer, Lieut. D. Paul, Surg. Godding, and Private Buller. For Vancouver—Master K. Robinson and Miss Culbert. For Montreal—Mr. Leung Yuk. For New York—Mrs. Gim Toy, Mrs. Chin Him Gay, Misses Ten Gook and Ten Lon. For Halifax—Mrs. McDougall and child. For London—Mr. and Mrs. R. Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. G. Botfield, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Goodman and child, Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Macleod, Misses Macleod (2) and infant, Messrs. W. G. Allen, W. Brewer, R. Inglis, W. A. Cruickshank, H. Crawford, A. Stewart, W. Coney, and Lieut. A. J. Craven. From Yokohama for Vancouver, B.C.—Mr. and Mrs. Kyerson. For London—Mrs. and Miss Buller, Miss Karslake, Miss Greenfield, and Miss Kekewick.

Per *Ravenna*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. Y. Fujimura. For Bombay—Mr. J. Pestonjee, Mr. D. Nowroji. For Port Said—Messrs. A. Jespersen and G. M. Salomonsen. For Brindisi—Messrs. Otto Richters, J. A. C. Poole and J. Eaton. For London—Messrs. Danl. Hawkins, R. N., A. J. Crane, H. A. J. Strohmeier, J. Gloyn, and Sergt. Major A. Morrison. From Shanghai for Singapore—Capt. Green. For Colombo—Dr. and Mrs. Cox, and Mr. W. Cox. For Malta—Mr. and Mrs. Curtis. For Brindisi—Mr. E. G. Hillier. For Marseilles—Messrs. Kwei Ping Yung and Tung Ping Foo. For London—Mrs. Swallow, Mr. W. G. Peat, Mrs. Peat and child, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hunt, Mrs. C. Smith and child, Rev. and Mrs. Bear and 2 children, Messrs. H. Smale, Bland, and H. B. Morse's 2 children, Misses Culverwell and Bontwood. From Yokohama for Singapore—Mr. H. Y. Kawa. For London—Mr. and Mrs. Eickett and 4 daughters. From Kobe for Bombay—Mr. G. de H. Smith. For London—Mr. R. Blathwayt, Mr. and Mrs. Dilworth, Mr. and Mrs. Bradbury and 2 children.
Per *City of Rio de Janeiro*, str., for Yokohama—Mrs. J. H. S. Lockhart and 2 children, Mrs. J. Davis, Messrs. Carl Rough and T. G. Parry. For San Francisco—Mrs. Milward and Mr. Abduranna. For Denver—Mr. W. R. Cowrie.
Per *Haimun*, str., for Swatow—Mrs. Kerr. For Foochow via Amoy—Mr. O. E. Smith. For Shanghai via Amoy and Foochow—Mr. Macondray.

Per *Verona*, str., from Hongkong for Kobe—Mrs. Omatsu. For Yokohama from London—Mr. W. J. Raymond. From Colombo—Surg. Major McKie. From Singapore—Staff-Surg. Long, R. N.

Per *Sungkiang*, str., for Amoy and Manila—Mr. J. F. Loader, Miss Juana Pastor, and Mr. Juan Valencia.

Per *Oceanien*, str., for Shanghai—Mr. S. D. Setna, and Capt. F. Ashton. For Kobe—Mr. and Mrs. M. Cortis and 4 children, Mr. D. Cortis and child, Mrs. A. Concepcion, Mrs. Elisa Imperial, Mrs. F. Cortis, Messrs. A. Cortis, Margel, Henry, P. Aufliatre, B. A. Ross, Jacob Lew, E. C. Shepherd, W. Armstrong, H. E. Bottlewalla, G. A. Marquis, and Dr. Hornsey. For Yokohama—Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Featherstonhaugh, Major C. Lambton, Mr. Macicar.

Per *Haitan*, str., for Swatow—Mr. Vickers. For Amoy—Mr. A. B. Castro. For Foochow—Mr. Pollard.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., for Manila—Messrs. J. J. Lasala, Engel John, and J. Foreman.